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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Sep

LD0309082194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0728 GMT 3 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—The last train with Russian troops arrives at the Byelorussian [Belorussian] railway terminal of Moscow today at 9.30, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA writes. The honour to be the last unit to return home was given to the Sixth Motorized Infantry Brigade, which will march by the Tverskaya Street, repaired for this occasion, from the square near the terminal to the Kremlin. The march will end a whole epoch in the history of Europe which lasted for about half a century. From now on, the armed forces of all the countries will be deployed within their national borders.

Touching upon the situation in Chechnya, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes that an armed clash in Urus-Martan was actually a preventive strike of the Chechen official authorities at their opponents. In the opinion of IZVESTIYA, it is the beginning of real actions of the opposition. It will call for an equally tough response on the part of the authorities, which have pursued so far a policy of suspense and deterrence." [no opening quotation mark as received]

According to the DELOVOY MIR (BUSINESS WORLD) newspaper, "the future of Dzhokhar Dudayev is clear: He will have to resign from the post of Chechen president, of course, if Moscow does not spoil everything. It may spoil everything, if it sends troops to Groznyy. The Chechen knot should be undone by the Chechen people themselves and only by peaceful means."

The Peacemaker-94 military exercise, which we are holding at the Totsk training ground, is small by its scope, but very important. It is the first such exercise in the history of our two countries. We are learning a great deal from each other and working out the tactics of joint actions, ways and methods of military work, which may be used in the future. And one more thing: It is an excellent opportunity to organise real cooperation of commanders of various levels, ranging from the lowest one, that of squad commanders, sergeants, to generals, Brigade General Holder told IZVESTIYA.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries in this connection a statement of ex- Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, which says: "The joint Russian- American so-called peacekeeping military exercise, which begins at the Totsk training ground, is another evidence that Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Grachev are obediently following the instructions of Washington, disregarding the opinion of the majority of Russians. Thus, a step is being made to ensure in the future a permanent U.S. military presence on our territory, which the destroyers of Russia have long dreamed to do.

"Under the pretext of peacekeeping, they intend to turn the Russian armed forces into participants in the acts of violence and destruction, of the violation of state sovereignty, specifically, to use Russian soldiers in actions against the fraternal Serb people.

"All this, together with the troops withdrawal from the Baltic states and Germany, organised in the most shameful way, shows that the incumbent leadership is betraying the national interests of Russia."

"It became known that ships of the Black Sea Fleet will not take part in celebrations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Odessa. They rejected the invitation, because the previous head of the city administration announced last April that the presence of ships of the Black Sea Fleet in Odessa was unwelcome."

This happened after a conflict with the hydrographic vessel Cheleken of the Black Sea Fleet and the capture of a naval squadron by Ukrainian paratroopers. It was planned at that time to evacuate by ships the Black Sea Fleet sailors, who refused to give an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, but they had to be evacuated by trucks. The command of the Black Sea Fleet may change its mind, if the Odessa authorities offer official apologies to the fleet, whose history is closely connected with that of Odessa.

Ships of the Black Sea Fleet will take part in celebrations in Novorossiysk, and the fleet's delegation led by its commander Admiral Eduard Baltin will visit Moscow and attend celebrations on the occasion of the day of the city.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an article by Aleksandr Yevtushenko, first deputy minister of fuel and energy of Russia.

"As is known, we write heaps of documents and spend a lot of time every year to defend our figures on oil output and to substantiate the need for state support for the industry. We are defending them at the ministries of economy, labour, finance, in the government, and as a result of all our efforts, first our figures are cut, although they were clearly substantiated, and later even the allocations, mentioned in the budget, are curtailed," he writes.

Commenting on the visit of Chinese leader Jiang Zemin to Moscow, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes: "Jiang Zemin came to Moscow on Friday after 40 years, and this time not as an apprentice at the automobile works, the way he did in 1995, but as the head of the People's Republic of China."

Speaking about Russian-Chinese relations, Yeltsin said on the eve of his meeting with the Chinese guest that the two countries are facing the need for further expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Sep

LD0609061694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0500 GMT 6 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 6 TASS—The situation in Chechnya and around it is the principal topic in the Tuesday editions of the Moscow-based Russian press.

"Fighting is under way in Chechnya," reports IZVESTIYA. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is of the opinion that "politicians, it seems, have got into trouble: A war has come to Russia".

"The crisis in Chechnya is near the danger limit", warns TRUD.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) believes that "provocations cannot be an alternative to a constructive search for ways that would enable Chechnya to get out of the crisis". The newspaper runs excerpts from the Russian Government's message to the Chechen people". In the message, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out, "Moscow, for the first time in recent years, has officially testified its attitude to Dzhokhar Dudayev, urging him "to muster courage and resign with dignity."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, referring to the State Security Department of Chechnya, asserts that "Ruslan Khasbulatov and the provisional council demand Russia's military support".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, analysing the developments in Chechnya, arrives at the following conclusion: "The 'independence' of Chechnya has resulted in a tragedy for its people. Dudayev made the entire republic a hostage of big politics but he has miscalculated. The patience of the people is not limitless. On the third anniversary of his rule, Dudayev finds himself practically rejected by his own people".

IZVESTIYA on regionalism in Russia:

"The ideas of Yegor Gaydar and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy live on and triumph at the local level. It seems that regional administrations find increasingly rational ways to use their independence.

"Only recently the proclamation of a region a republic was almost the only manifestation of independence, whereas now administrative chiefs of a number of regions seek to strengthen the financial positions of the local authorities. An adroitly prepared and properly floated municipal loan gives a lot more freedoms and opportunities than the proclamation of a reginal constitution".

In IZVESTIYA, Boris Fyodorov, a deputy to the State Duma and former minister, examines the problems of relationship between Russia and the West. He maintains that "Russia should join NATO" to be able "to get to know the genuine attitude of our numerous partners in the Group of Seven, Western and Eastern Europe towards Russia".

In KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, Valentin Pavlov, the last prime minister of the Soviet Union, advocates the need for ex-Soviet republics to get re-integrated.

"There is practically no structure in the world which can ensure inter-regional exchanges based on this or that criterion of the advantageousness of the end product if it has no common rules of the game which are worked out and monitored by a single centre", Pavlov pointed out.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who sets out "the Russian Government's point of view on the foreign debt service.

The Russian Government did not raise and does not intend to raise the question of writing off Russia's foreign debt, Shokhin said.

"As regards technicalities, we are now busy working out a plan for a more cardinal and at the same time simple solution to the current problems concerning the debt service. The plan does not presuppose the writing off of the debt. Its meaning is in determining a time-table for the foreign debt service for Russia in the years to come. The time-table will set a 'ceiling' for budget expenditure for this purpose," the vice-premier emphasised.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA runs an inteview with Boris Mironov, former chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press, who announced his resignation.

"It is first of all a spiritual crisis, which has eroded the people's belief in themselves, that prevents Russia from drawing itself to its full height, not economic or political crises. Without a national patriotic enthusiasm, the people of Russia will not be able to get invigorated spiritually or revive in themselves the erstwhile spirit of confidence and tranquility, and a sense of pride for the nation," Mironov said.

"My resignation was compelled by ideological considerations, not professional or human qualities. The president did not wish to accept my national, patriotic programme for the spiritual revival of Russia. But I continue to insist that Russia is possible only as a national state. It must at last return to national self-assertion and independence", Mironov pointed out.

IZVESTIYA interviewed Vladimir Bashmachnikov, president of the Farmers' Association of Russia. He believes that "the government has left private farmers at the mercy of fate".

Bashmachnikov asserts that "there is a collusion between high officials to stifle individually-operated farms in Russia. Officials are being provoked and actively supported by collective- farm system advocates who fear competitors in the shape of still weak but promising private-farm system".

Reportage on Grachev Remarks at NATO Meeting

Comments on Balkans Conflict

LD0509142494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1331 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep—Pavel Grachev is convinced that the renewal of arms deliveries to the Muslims of Bosnia is an open ultimatum to the Serbs. Such a step will not lead to peace but, rather, will "serve as a spur to a hard and uncompromising war." The world community "should display as high a degree of principle as possible not only to the Bosnian Serbs but also to the Muslims whose provocative military activity is obvious."

He said this to journalists today after a meeting with Field Marshal Richard Vincent, chairman of the NATO military committee, at which the situation in the Balkans was discussed among other things.

In the opinion of Pavel Grachev, the United Nations is faced with a difficult choice: either it should admit the defeat of its peacekeeping efforts or continue to seek politically true responses to resolving the crisis in the Balkans. "A path of force has no prospects and will not yield the required result," Pavel Grachev said. Such a path, in his opinion, will only mean that the United Nations or NATO, to all intents and purposes, are renouncing their peacekeeping role and are one of the warring sides.

Comments on 'Russia-NATO' Program

LD0509150094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 8 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 September—Discussion and acceptance of the individual program "Russia-NATO", which gives prominence to questions of military cooperation, will take place as part of the joint work of Russian and NATO experts. Their regular meeting is scheduled for October. Pavel Grachev told journalists about this today after his meeting with the chairman of NATO's military committee, Field Marshal Richard Vincent.

The minister believes that cooperation in the defense planning sector, confidence-building measures between countries, and openness in the military sphere are priorities for the Russian military department. Pavel Grachev described as important the exchange of opinions on the content of military doctrines, on conceptual bases for armed forces organizational development, and the formation of military budgets.

The minister gives special significance to joint steps between Russia and NATO in the sphere of control over arms and disarmament.

"We are ready to begin real cooperation already this year," he noted. In particular it is planned to set up lines of communication which will be constantly open between the Ministry of Defense and headquarters of the NATO Supreme Command and to organize the work of representatives of the military department in the bloc's coordinating cell.

The minister said that within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program visits were planned for Russian servicemen to the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, and Canada. Pavel Grachev does not rule our the possibility of Russia taking part in maneuvers on the territory of NATO countries. In particular, if an invitation is forthcoming, participation is possible in the exercises named Reforger, which will take place this autumn in Europe. Russian specialists together with their American colleagues are planning to hold exercises in the future on tactical antimissile defense.

Says Program Based on Military Cooperation

LD0509153694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—The consideration and adoption of the "Russia-NATO" individual program in which various aspects of military cooperation play an important role, will be carried out in the course of joint work of Russian and NATO experts. Their next meeting is scheduled for October this year, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists today after a meeting with Field-Marshal Richard Vincent, chairman of the NATO military committee.

According to the Russian minister, top priority issues for the Russian defense Ministry will be cooperation in the field of defense planning, confidence building measures between countries and openness in the military sphere.

It is also important, Pavel Grachev said, to arrange an exchange of views on the content of military doctrines, conceptual principles of the building of armed forces and the formation of military budgets.

The minister attaches special importance to joint steps of Russia and NATO in the sphere of control over armaments and disarmament.

"We are ready to begin real cooperation already this year", Pavel Grachev noted. In particular, it is planned to establish permanent communications lines between the Russian Defense Ministry and the headquarters of the NATO supreme commander, and organize work of representatives of the military department in a cooperation cell of the bloc.

Also planned are visits of Russian military officials to the United States, Great Britain, Belgium and Canada within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program, the Russian minister informed.

Pavel Grachev does not rule out the possibility of Russia's participation in military maneuvers on the territory of NATO countries. Specifically, if Russia receives an appropriate invitation it may take part in the "Reforger" military exercises which will take place this autumn in Europe. Russian experts are planning together with American colleagues to organize exercises on tactical anti-missile defense in the future.

Calls Conventional Forces Treaty Too Tough

LD0509194194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Russia cannot accept the flank restrictions demanded by the European treaty on conventional armed forces, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said.

The terms of the accord conflict with Russia's vital security interests, Grachev said talking to reporters on Monday.

Citing specialist estimates, Grachev said the quotas for tanks, armored fighting vehicles (AFVs) and artillery systems the treaty sets for Russia were too low to ensure its security, especially on its southern borders, where the situation remains "volatile."

The minister said the Leningrad and North Caucasus Military Districts need 1,100 tanks, 3,000 AFVs and 2,100 artillery systems, or 400 tanks, 2,420 AFV's and 820 artillery systems in excess of the quotas.

The North Caucasus Military District alone needs 600 tanks, 2,200 AFVs and 1,000 artillery systems, Grachev said.

He said accepting Russia's proposals for changing the terms of the treaty posed no danger to the security of any of its signatory states.

Grachev said in conclusion that Russia had chosen the path of integration with European structures, recognized the significance of the treaty on conventional armed forces as the main guarantor of stability in Europe, and sought to strictly observe it.

Proposes New European Security System

LD0509200394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Russia stands for an essentially new European security system, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said.

Moscow regards efforts to build such a system as one of its priority foreign policy tasks, Grachev told a news conference on Monday.

He said the optimum way to attain that aim was to give the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) the status of a regional political organization and make the North Atlantic Cooperation Council an independent military and political cooperation body closely connected with the CSCE. "This would provide for the effective coordination of efforts by NATO, the European Union, the West European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States to strengthen security, stability and peace and defend human rights," the minister said.

The Helsinki process could be complemented by a set of bilateral security and cooperation agreements between European states, which could ultimately lead to a general military and political Euroatlantic, he said.

NATO's role could not be ignored in ensuring European security, Grachev continued. But, with the confrontation between two blocs having become a thing of the past, the North Atlantic alliance should be given different functions. "Cooperation must now be aimed at forming and strengthening an essentially new model of European security, based on the equal rights and responsibilities of its member states, whose interests span a vast area from Vancouver to Vladivostok," the minister said.

He said Russia was closely following plans to increase NATO's membership and give it extensive powers to interfere in Europe's political processes.

But further strengthening the alliance, which in the Cold War days was one of the antagonist blocs, no longer makes any sense, Grachev said. This "could have a negative effect on the political climate in Europe. Moreover, we cannot overlook the fact that NATO and some of its member states still haven't taken Russia off the list of their potential enemies," he said.

"Another source of concern is the fact that some states in Central and Eastern Europe and some Baltic states, which have expressed the desire to join the (North Atlantic) alliance, produce invented anti-Russian arguments to motivate this," Grachev went on.

"The Russian Federation is a state following new democratic principles and having every right to ensure the level of security meeting its national interests. We react negatively to every attempt to set the European Community against us. We do stand for cooperation with NATO, but we do not believe that increasing the membership of the bloc meets the requirements of our time," he said.

Grachev said a policy of nuclear deterrence was acquiring a new meaning. "Today nuclear weapons should be regarded as a means of achieving political rather than military aims and as a means of ensuring security on the compulsory condition that their stockpiles are consistently reduced," he said.

Says Totsk Exercises Going Well

LD0609125194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1225 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow September 6 TASS—The third stage of the "Peace Keeper-94" military exercise is at its peak point at the Totsk proving ground, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of land forces. Russian and U.S. peace keepers work on the task "joint operation to keep peace in a designated area".

American and Russian troops are fulfilling tasks at a joint commanding point where methods of governing subunits in a zone of conflict are being developed by joint efforts.

Some squads exchange experience of inspecting motor vehicles and checking documents. The American side studies with interest Russian methods of maintaining peace and admits that "much can be learnt from Russians".

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev will come on Wednesday to the area of the military exercise. He told ITAR-TASS before his departure for the proving ground that "the exercise is going with a swing and in an organised manner, commanders and headquarters operate in a team spirit".

In the minister's opinion, the practice of holding joint maneouvres justifies itself. He expressed hope that Russian troops will participate in such exercises with armies of other countries in future too.

The chief of the Russian defence department did not preclude a chance for such participation in the NATO traditional autumn war games "Reforger".

Discusses Cooperation With Official

MM0609125394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "Meeting at Russian Defense Ministry"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, received British Field Marshal Richard Vincent, chairman of the NATO Military Committee, who is on an official visit to our country, 5 September. During the discussion with NATO's top military leader problems of military cooperation between Russia and NATO—including in the sphere of peacekeeping activity—were discussed.

Army Gen. Pavel Grachev told Field Marshal Vincent, in particular, that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry is completing its preparations on the "Russia-NATO" program, which is designed to supplement the more general principles of "Partnership for Peace." Cooperation in the sphere of military planning, exchanges of views on conceptual aspects of defense organizational development and the financing of military expenditure, and mutual information on the content of military doctrines are highlighted in the program as priority areas for cooperation. Russia is also proposing to pool efforts within the "Partnership..." framework in the struggle against the spread of weapons of mass destruction and in ensuring disarmament and arms control.

Army Gen. Pavel Grachev noted that Russia is prepared to establish permanent communications this year between the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and NATO Headquarters and to set up a communications mission in Mons (Belgium). Our country has also expressed readiness to take part in the "Reforger" series of exercises, joint exercises of tactical antimissile forces, and other international exercises.

At the end of the meeting with the NATO military leader, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, answered numerous questions from journalists. A report on this impromptu press conference will be published in our next issue.

Grachev on German Withdrawal, Joint U.S. Exercise

LD0309192294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Defense Minister Pavel Grachev interview by Dmitriy Voskoboynikov; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Voskoboynikov] Pavel Sergeyevich, the withdrawal of our troops from Germany has now been completed. What are your feelings now—joy, regret, just satisfaction with what has been done, or a more complex combination?

[Grachev] My feelings as defense minister are naturally ambivalent. First of all, we were obligated to pull out the troops in line with present-day realities and the military-political situation—this is unequivocal. We have managed to do it. From a purely military point of view, the withdrawal of the troops to Russian territory makes it substantially easier to command the troops and improves the level of their combat readiness and combat training now that they are in the Soviet Union—uh, I mean Russia.

The other feeling is, of course, dissatisfaction with the timescale adopted by the former political leadership of the Soviet Union on the troop withdrawal.

[Voskoboynikov] The ceremony of our troop withdrawal from Germany was attended by nearly all the best-known politicians from Russia. The troop pull-out from Latvia and Estonia, on the other hand, proceeded rather unobtrusively. None of the well-known politicians went there. It even looked as though no one in Moscow wanted to pay attention to this event.

[Grachev] The troop withdrawal from the Baltics, like from other states of the former Soviet Union, is an ordinary event—it is like a redeployment, not a troop withdrawal, but a troop redeployment from one area to another.

[Voskoboynikov] Your critics claim that Russia does not at all need the Russian-U.S. exercise at the Totsk test range, that they have no practical benefit. What do you think?

[Grachev] I disagree with these critics. On the contrary, the first-ever joint Russian-U.S. command and staff exercise has an immense political and military significance. In political terms, first of all, they reaffirm Russia's reputation throughout the world as a peace-brokering state. Second, Russia is showing its armed forces and their ability to mount a peacekeeping operation. Third, being a great power, Russia is actively involved in tackling all the problems discussed by the United Nations Security Council.

[Voskoboynikov] The exercise is set in a fictitious country called Atlantis, which is torn by ethnic strife. Territorially, is this Atlantis rather on the territory of the former USSR, or is it closer to the United States—say, somewhere in the Caribbean?

[Grachev] Now that the stand-off between the blocs is over, we just have no right to plan or hold an operation, even a peacekeeping one, in a specific country. So Atlantis is of course an imaginary country. In the exercise, they use training maps in which towns and villages have fictitious names. No one knows whose territory it is, so as not to infringe on the sovereignty and interests of a third state, and, moreover, not to provoke this state with the possibility of an internal conflict and the prospect of peacekeeping forces being sent to that state.

Kostikov Praises Timing of Germany Withdrawal

LD0309195794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Was the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany done a little too soon? Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, answered this question put to him by our correspondent:

[Begin Kostikov recording] The political situation has ripened. If Russian troops had stayed there any longer, we could have gotten ourselves into a situation where Russia would have been rejected both morally and physically. We have overstayed in certain places in the Baltic region and are now considered to be occupiers there. If we had wished to avoid this in the Baltics, we should have done what we have done now in Germany.

We have left Germany with dignity as soldiers—liberators of Europe, as Chancellor Kohl said. We have left as soldiers, friends, with a clear heart and conscience. We have left behind in the hearts of the German population and servicemen a feeling of goodwill and friendship among servicemen. If we had delayed the withdrawal for another year, two, or three, the situation could have seriously changed. We would have been driven out of the country and forced to leave in disgrace. The withdrawal has been politically weighed and ideally timed. [end recording]

Kozyrev Meets U.S. Congress Delegation

LD0609124794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1157 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow September 6 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said there is a need for "non-dicriminatory approach to trade and investment" in relations between Russia and the United States. He stated this at the negotiations with a delegation of the senate of the U.S. Congress. The minister noted the importance of exchange of opinion between representatives of the two countries in the runup to the Russian president's visit to Washington.

Kozyrev said there are achievements and problems in the development of bilateral relations. The stage when humanitarian aid to Russia was a priority is already over, the minister believes. The task of creating conditions for equal interaction and for overcoming barriers formed in the years of the cold war is now most topical.

Kozyrev also said there are kinds of American assistance, specifically technical aid, that proved effective and must continue.

Discusses Ties With Senators

LD0609102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0825 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Sep—The state of Russian-U.S. relations was the focus of attention at talks here today between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and a delegation from the Senate of the U.S. Congress. The sides discussed various aspects of these relations in the context of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to the United States.

"It is very important that the president's visit to the United States is coming up," the head of Russian diplomacy noted, opening the talks, "and exceptionally important to exchange opinions on the progress of affairs between our countries." A. Kozyrev said there were "both achievements and problems" in the development of bilateral links. The minister believes that the stage when the priority task was that of providing humanitarian aid to Russia is now past. Now the most pressing need is for the creation of "conditions for cooperation on equal terms and for the barriers formed in the years of the 'cold war' to be overcome." A nondiscriminatory approach to trade and investment needs to be worked out.

The head of the foreign policy department explained at the same time that there are types of cooperation which are valid and which should be preserved. It is unacceptable "to throw the baby out with the bath water," h said. A. Kozyrev cited in particular technical help as one of the valid types of cooperation.

Pentagon Spokesman on Perry Visit Cancellation

LD0409035894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0539 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Washington August 4 TASS—The United States was in contact with Russia. The cancellation of the U.S. defence secretary's visit does not mean that there are problems between the two countries, said here the Pentagon spokesman, noting that American-Russian relations in the military sphere are steadily improving.

According to the spokesman, current affairs influence the present developments.

The U.S. Armed Forces are bracing for a possible invasion in Haiti to overthrow the military junta and to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in power.

The spokesman said that representatives from the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe will be possibly sent as observers to the American- Russian military exercise in the Totsk proving ground.

Protest Rally Held Against Joint U.S. Exercises

LD0609035694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0250 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 6 September—A rally was held today near the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok to protest the joint Russian-U.S. training exercises at Totsk military test range. It was organized by the Maritime Kray's communists, the Officers' Union, the council of veterans, and some other public organizations. The rally demanded that interference in Russia's internal affairs end and that joint training exercises at Totsk military test range be immediately stopped.

The participants in the rally handed the text of their protest to D. Millikan, U.S. consul general in Vladivostok; to Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of the kray administration; and to Vladimir Ignatenko, representative of the Russian president in the Maritime Kray.

Various parties and public organizations formed a picket by the consulate when the rally ended.

Anpilov Leads Protestors at Totsk

LD0209121494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The joint Russian-U.S. command staff exerciss Peacekeeper-94 began today at the Totsk training ground near Orenburg. The ground forces' press center reports that a reconnaissance of the site is being carried out and zones of responsibility are being determined. Representatives of the irreconcilable opposition did not miss the chance of using tne exercises to make political statements. About 40 demonstrators headed by Vitor Anpilov arrived on Thursday to take part in a protest action. The law enforcement forces do not intend to allow outsiders into the camp and strict security checks are in force.

Communist Pickets Attack U.S. Newsmen

LD0509123694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The third stage of the Russian-U.S. joint command and staff exercises began today at the Totsk military test range in Orenburg Oblast. Unfortunately, its beginning was marked by an act of vandalism by communist pickets against a television film crew from the U.S. Defense Department. Approximately 60 people, shouting unrepeatable abuse, fell upon the American journalists. Only the involvement of the law-enforcement bodies was able to prevent the incident from developing. Soon after this, the pickets left the area of the joint exercises, INTERFAX reports.

'Military Experts' Cited on Totsk Exercise

MM0209160094 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by military observer Anatoliy Slobozhanyuk: "Yanks Come to Totsk Redoubt. Joint Russian-U.S. Exercises Began Yesterday"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Now we have the exercises symbolically code-named "Peacemaker-94." We are a good partner, aren't we?

Strictly speaking, the idea is by no means a bad one. Better to be friends than enemies, never mind—God forbid—fight. But you cannot avoid the question. We are cordially receiving our guests, yet they, our former allies, refused to take part in a common farewell parade in Germany and did not invite Russia to the celebrations to mark the anniversary of the opening of the second front. Nonetheless the main question is why should ordinary exercises, in which less than two battalions in total are taking part, be held in the middle of Russia. I spoke to military experts on this subject. And different hypotheses were voiced. Including the following. A full company of CIA staffers could be sent to the Totsk region, one of the most off-limits to foreigners. Another possibility is that the U.S. population vigorously protests nuclear explosions in Nevada, so why not move the tests of U.S. charges to this area? I would stress that these are experts' hypotheses. But they are also to be found in our editorial mailbag. I did not succeed in getting any intelligible explanation from officials in military circles.

The exercises have begun. May they live up to their code name.

Disparate U.S. Treatment of Officers, Troops Cited

LD0509094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0825 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Beylakov]

[Text] Samara September 5 TASS—The joint U.S.-Russian peacekeeping exercises underway on the Totsk training ground in central Russia have moved into their third stage.

Today the peacekeepers will begin to institute a state of emergency. The American side, which has a lot of experience working with local populations, suggested that the peacekeepers practice dealing with "cultural instability". That term refers to the hostility which local populations often feel towards UN patrols who do not respect or understand the traditions and religious practices of the population in the zone being guarded.

The American troops are on round-the-clock duty now. The commanders even turned down an offer from Russian reserve troops to install televisions, since the Marines [as received] do not have enough free time to watch any TV programmes.

The officers' duties are a little lighter. Having exchanged their dollars for roubles in the local branch of Inkombank, they have been making trips to a nearby marketplace and buying warm Russian hats and Russian books to take home.

Start of Totsk Joint Exercise Viewed

MM0609092194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Miranovich: "When 'Atlantis' Calls For Help. At the Peacekeeping Forces' Joint Exercise"]

[Text] Exercise Area—Don't look for this country on the map. It exists only in the common plan of the joint command-post exercise between Russian and U.S. peacekeeping troops that began 2 September. The exercise is conceived as fulfilling Paragraph 6 of the UN Charter—an "observation mission" to maintain peace around the "capital" of this imaginary state.

In accordance with a mandate from the United Nations, says the plan, which I saw at the joint leadership headquarters—headed alternately by Colonels Valeriy Mironchenko and Kate Dayton—coalition peacekeeping forces (the 1st Brigade of the U.S. 3d Infantry Division, and the Russian 589th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 27th Motorized Rifle Division), having carried out preliminary training at their areas of permanent deployment, will be brought into combat readiness and transferred to the conflict zone....

As you have already guessed, the Totsk Test Range is acting as this nonexistent country where a "conflict situation" is supposed to have broken out. This facility is unusual even among its peers—of which there are plenty in Russia. It seems like an ordinary test range, measuring 14 km by 17, which makes it possible to stage live-fire tactical exercises at regiment and battalion level, gunnery involving all types of munitions, firing by tanks using standard-issue shells, and bombing runs. It has a fighting vehicle gunnery training facility, a tank training area, an equipment training area, a vehicle training area, and other typical test range "training areas." But it is not because of these attributes that the Totsk Training Center—which two years ago became the training base for Russia's peacekeeping forces—is famous. Its 90-year history (the garrison was set up in 1904) has included many memorable landmarks in the fatherland's military history.

Before World War I the 8th Army of General A. Brusilov trained here (incidentally, Jaroslav Hasek, the author of "The Adventures of the Good Soldier Svejk," came to the Totsk camps in the summer of 1915 among the first batch of prisoners of war). During the Great Patriotic War many of our infantry regiments and divisions were formed here (a T-34 tank on a pedestal in the center of the camp commemorates this fact). Forty years ago, in September 1954, the first troop exercises involving the use of nuclear weapons were held at the Totsk Test Range under the leadership of Marshal G. Zhukov. A 40-kiloton atom bomb dropped from 13 km exploded at an altitude of 350 meters above the ground. Surviving exercise participants still have dreams about the nuclear mushroom cloud rising up to an altitude of 10 km under which they launched the attack. The inscription on the plaque located at the site of the explosion epicenter—"To those who disdained danger and did their military duty for the sake of Russia's defense might"—is dedicated to them and to those who did not live to see the 40th anniversary of this nuclear attack.

As is well known, this fact from the test range's history was very actively exploited by those opposed to holding the exercise on Russian territory. But the results of the expert radio-environmental analysis carried out by Russian and U.S. specialists refuted all their "arguments." Some 80 measurements of the size of the gamma radiation dose were carried out in the area of the epicenter of the nuclear explosion, in the areas where the exercise participants would be deployed, at the joint command post, and along convoy routes, and our specialists took 39 soil samples. Moreover, aerosol samples were taken from the ground layer of the air and alpha, beta, and gamma radiation was measured at soil surface level and at a depth of 20 cm. The conclusion was unambiguous—the men would not be facing any additional external radiation (compared with background levels).

Were the experienced American "professionals" informed about this? I was told by Colonel Richard Bridges, head of public relations at U.S. Army Headquarters in Europe—who is representing the American press at the exercise—that the soldiers at the range had been informed both by their superiors and by the press. (Incidentally, he spoke with gratitude about our military medics, who rapidly did a quality job in evacuating an American soldier injured on day one of the exercise). He was helped by Sergey Petrovich Mashin, a surgeon at the local hospital. And the soldiers with whom I spoke immediately after their plane landed at the airfield did indeed know about Totsk.

In general I would not say that, having reached the range where "the Soviets staged two Hiroshimas," they have been behaving with the free-and-easy style of the superheroes we know so well. Rather, on the contrary, cooperating with Russian peacekeepers, they have been demonstrating an enviable focus and punctiliousness in carrying out all their orders. And literally every step here has been mapped out in advance. Do not be in any hurry to rebuke the organizers of the command-post exercise for this. After all, we are witnessing, as it were, the first working contacts between different military systems. And although the aim is the same—to learn to cooperate for peacekeeping purposes—the means of implementing that aim require major practice, from, for instance, safety procedures during dummy firing exercises to the signal to end operations. There must be uniformity in everything, otherwise there will be no cooperation.

The first few phases have shown that the working groups that prepared the exercise, and their leaders—Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Ground Forces, and Lieutenant General Richard Keller, chief of staff of the U.S. forces in the European Theater, who are both attending—coped with their task. Guided by the documents they drew up, the staffs and the people who have to directly carry out their plans—company commanders Captains Andrey Nepiyushchiy and Mark Shenkl and their subordinates—understand each other perfectly. At any rate, there have so far been no particular misunderstandings during operations at the joint checkpoint, during patrols where the zones of responsibility intersect, or at other training points where the Russian and American peacekeepers are having to operate together. But this will be covered in our next report.

Thus, having concentrated their troops in their initial areas, the sides sent the peacekeeping forces into the "conflict zone" over the weekend and embarked on a joint peacekeeping operation. Brigadier General Leonard Holder, commander of the 3d U.S. Infantry Division, has taken over from Major General Anatoliy Sidyakin, who was in charge of the exercise during the first two phases.

The "siege" of the range by those opposed to the exercise was lifted once representatives of the sides accepted a "note of protest" from them.

Reportage on PRC's Jiang Zemin's Visit

Chinese Leader Arrives in Moscow

LD0209120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1126 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 2 ITAR-TASS—Chinese leader Jiang Zemin has arrived for a five-day official visit to Russia, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin welcomed Jiang Zemin to Russia on the tarmac of Moscow's Sheremetevo-1 Airport.

The Chinese leader is due to hold talks with President Boris Yeltsin and sign a joint declaration identifying the main guidelines for the development of relations between the two countries in the long term, and agreement on the border between Russia and China in its western part and a statement on the non-targeting of nuclear missiles.

Jiang Zemin will also meet the Russian head of government Viktor Chernomyrdin and the leaders of the two chambers of the Russian parliament.

The Chinese president will also visit the city of Yekaterinburg in Russia, and proceed to the Ukrainian capital Kiev and then on to Paris, France after completing his visit to Russia.

Further on Arrival

LD0209153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 2 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Chairman Jiang Zemin of the Chinese People's Republic has arrived in Moscow on an official visit at the invitation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

He will hold talks with Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chairmen Vladimir Shumeiko and Ivan Rybkin of the houses of the Russian parliament.

Mikhail Belyy, director of the First Asian Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Interfax that a joint Russian-Chinese declaration and statement by the Russian president and Chinese chairmen on mutual detargeting the strategic missiles would be signed.

Belyy said that agreements would be concluded on the western part of the Russian-Chinese border and on cooperation and mutual aid in customs operations.

A protocol on shipping from the Ussuri River to the Amur River past the city of Khabarovsk and back will specify the rules of passage for Chinese ships in an area where the border has not been agreed, Belyy said.

He explained that the declaration on mutual detargeting of strategic missiles would have the status of international law. He recalled that similar agreements had been signed by Russia with the U.S.A. and Britain. In his view, the signing of such a statement with China would testify to the high degree of confidence between the two countries.

Officials in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax that this is the first Jiang Zemin's visit to Moscow as a head of state but he had been to Russia before. In 1950s he had training in the Moscow ZIL car factory and in 1991 he came to Moscow in his capacity as chairman of

Chinese Communist Party's Central Military Council and secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party.

Jiang Zemin has an engineering education. He knows Russian, Japanese, English, French, German and Portuguese.

PRC, Russia To Pledge No Preemptive Strikes

OW0309024594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 3 KYODO—China and Russia will sign a joint communique Saturday [3 September] that pledges not to launch preemptive intercontinental ballistic missile attacks and turn their targets away from each other, a Chinese source said Friday.

The communique will be signed after talks between Chinese and Russian Presidents Jiang Zemin and Boris Yeltsin, the source said.

The source said this is the first time that China will sign a document with a nuclear state on pledging a no-first nuclear strike. Russia has agreed with the United States and Britain to defuse intercontinental ballistic missile targets.

China has sought to conclude a pact that imposes a total ban on the testing of nuclear arms by 1996. It also seeks an accord pledging not to launch preemptive strikes and not to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear states as well as calling for the ultimate dismantlement of nuclear weapons.

China, however, conducted underground nuclear weapon tests last October and in June this year to improve the performance of such weapons.

Jiang, who arrived in Moscow on Friday, is the first Chinese president to visit Russia since the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991. He is to meet Yeltsin on Saturday before signing a joint declaration on beefing up Sino-Russian ties.

Jiang's 10-day European tour will also take him to Ukraine and France.

Sino-Russian relations have grown smoothly since Yeltsin's visit to China in December 1992, with the two countries regularly holding ministerial and high-level exchanges.

Foreign Ministry Official Previews Visit

OW0309051494 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report on interview with (Loglinov), member of the China section of the Russian Foreign Ministry, by station reporter (Mihalev); place, date of interview not given; from the "Talk of the Day" program, in Russian fading into announcer-read translation into Mandarin]

[Text] During an interview by station reporter (Mihalev) on PRC President Jiang Zemin's official visit to Russia from 2 to 6 September, (Loglinov), a leading member of the China section of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said:

[Begin (Loglinov) recording] The current Russia-China summit is President Jiang Zemin's return visit to reciprocate President Yeltsin's December 1992 visit to China. The current visit is an important event in our countries' bilateral relations. The two large countries, sharing the longest common boundary in the world, once had considerable twists and turns in their relations. It should be pointed out that during Yeltsin's China visit, the two countries clearly expressed willingness to treat each other as friends, and this point was clearly contained in the declaration on bilateral relations signed during the last Russia-China summit.

Now, I would like to discuss bilateral relations of a level higher than ordinary—constructive and cooperative relations. Such relations mean that the two sides are cooperative partners who are truly equal and independent, as well as cooperative partners who regard their own national interests as guiding principles. The relations between China and the former Soviet Union went through a difficult period in the past. Now, Russia, as the legal successor to the former Soviet Union, has embarked on a road of constructive partnership and cooperation with China, and is looking forward to the 21st century with full confidence. [end recording]

Regarding Russian-Chinese economic relations during the present stage, (Loglinov), Russian Foreign Ministry official, said:

[Begin (Loglinov) recording] Over last three years, Russian-Chinese trade has become more and more active, with an annual rate of increase of 30 percent. The 1993 trade volume was $7.8 billion, hitting an all-time high and far exceeding the old trade volume between China and the former Soviet Union. However, it is regrettable that the 1993 volume will not be matched this year; this is not a secret for either side. The high growth rates of the preceding years were mainly achieved in a [word indistinct] way. When Russia was in urgent need of food and consumer goods, China supplied them at low prices. The trade was simple and crude, mainly on a barter basis. There were very few large-scale cooperative projects. Today, we should improve our bilateral trade relations and make the cooperation conform to international practice. For instance, we should cooperate in terms of investment and division of labor in production. Russia may participate in improving and rebuilding China's industrial facilities, while China may invest in Russia and take part in Russia's other economic programs. [end recording]

On the international significance of the Russia-China summit in Moscow, (Loglinov) said:

[Begin (Loglinov) recording] Jiang Zemin's visit is an important event which goes beyond bilateral relations, and it will have great effect internationally. A series of important documents will be signed during his visit, such as a joint statement on turning their nuclear missiles away from each other. We may say that this is a very important symbol in international relations, because it shows that the two countries have enhanced their trust in each other. For nearly 25 years, the two countries had watched each other through their gunsights. It has been five years since China and the former Soviet Union announced the complete normalization of their relations. Now, they have entered a stage of turning their missiles away from each other, a stage reflecting the normal state of exchanges between their peoples. The two countries are also developing cooperation in military technology. All of these facts show that mutual trust between Russia, the large Eurasian country, and China, the large Asian country, has reached a new, qualitatively higher level. [end recording]

Yeltsin, Jiang Start Private Talks

LD0309074294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0707 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov, Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—President Yeltsin and Chairman of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin have started tete-a-tete talks in the St. Catherine Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Opening the talks, Yeltsin congratulated the Chinese leader "on the occasion of his first official visit to the Russian Federation." The Russian president pointed out that, as a result of his visit to China in December 1992, a favourable climate had been created for the development of bilateral relations.

Three main documents—a joint declaration on the main directions of the long-term development of relations, an agreement on the Russian-Chinese border in its western part and a statement on the mutual non-training of strategic nuclear missiles on each other—are expected to be signed on the results of the talks, ITAR-TASS learned.

After the end of the conversation Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin will go to the St. George Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace, where talks will be continued with a greater number of participants.

Private Talks Conclude

LD0309094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0749 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correpondents Andrey Kirillov and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—Russian president Boris Yeltsin and PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin have ended their conversation in the Grand Kremlin palace and now started talks with the extended delegations taking part. Among the Russia delegation are the head of the presidential administration, Sergey Filatov, Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defense minister Pavel Grachev. Chinese delegation includes deputy prime minister Qian Qichen and other officials.

At the end of the talks the two leaders will sign a joint Russian-Chinese declaration and a statement on non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles.

This is the second Russian-Chinese summit. The first one took place in December 1992 during Boris Yeltsin's visit to China.

Yeltsin Comments on Talks

LD0309123494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1117 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov and Anna Melnikova]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 3 Sep— [Passage omitted] The Russian president considers that during today's talks, both those with restricted participation as well as the broader talks, the delegations touched upon "political, scientific and technical, economic, military technical, trading and international" topics. Boris Yeltsin said "the most important thing is that our views fully coincide."

The Russian head of state pointed out that during the private talks the sides discussed and appraised the experience of the progress of reforms in Russia and China, and also the possibility of using Chinese experience in the investment sphere. Boris Yeltsin announced that the Chinese leader "rates the progress of reforms in Russia highly, and our side also attributes great importance to the experience of conducting reforms, which are lasting considerably longer in the PRC." "President Jiang Zemin proposed setting up in the near future a special group to exchange experience in the sphere of investments, and work may also be done on setting up a joint Russian-Chinese economic zone," the Russian Federation president said.

PRC President Jiang Zemin commended the results of today's meeting very highly and commented that "after President Boris Yeltsin's visit to China in 1992 Russian-Chinese relations have been developing very successfully". The Chinese leader is of the view that "good results were achieved during today's talks," the sides are agreed to "raise relations of friendship, good-neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Russia to a higher level." The PRC president believes that "interstate relations always develop better when the leaders of two states meet frequently." He announced that he expects "another visit by the Russian president to the People's Republic of China."

Jiang Invites Yeltsin To Visit

LD0309093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0738 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov, Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—"Since the Russian president paid only a short visit to us, I would like to use this opportunity to invite you to visit China again at any time convenient for you," Jiang -Zemin, president of the PRC, said at the talks in which expanded Russian and Chinese delegations took part.

The Chinese leader said two years had passed since his first meeting with President Yeltsin in Beijing. "There is a Chinese saying that people remain strangers at their first meeting, but become old friends after a second," he said. Jiang Zemin added he was very pleased to see his "old friend Boris Yeltsin."

The PRC chairman spoke in favor of stepping up the contacts between the two neighboring states.

It is expected that a number of Russian-Chinese documents will be signed after the expanded talks at the St. Vladimir Hall of the Kremlin Palace.

Yeltsin, Jiang Sign Nuclear Missile Pact

LD0309091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov, Anna Melnikov, Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chairman of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin signed today a joint Russian-Chinese declaration after the end of the summit in the Kremlin, which proclaimed "new relations of constructive partnership" between the two biggest countries in the world both by the size of their territories and by their population. The document says that truly equal, good-neighbourly relations between Moscow and Beijing, the relations of friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation based on principles of peaceful coexistence, "are not allied relations and are not directed against third countries."

At the same time, a joint statement of the Russian president and the chairman of the People's Republic of China was signed in the St. Vladimir Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. It says that the two countries "have taken measures for non-training on each other of strategic nuclear missiles, which are under their respective command." The leaders of the two countries reiterated Russia's and China's commitment not to use force against each other, specifically, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against each other.

Yeltsin Comments on Relations

LD0309103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0936 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—"Relations between Russia and China will be developed constructively in a spirit of partnership and trust and on the basis of equal reciprocal conditions." This was stated to ITAR-TASS correspondents by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the end of the ceremony of signing Russian-Chinese documents.

The president noted that during his visit to China in 1992 a declaration on the principles of Russian-Chinese relations was been signed. "Over these two years our cooperation has developed and on this occasion a full-scale declaration on cooperation has been signed, as well as a statement on the non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles at each other. The ministers of the two countries had signed an agreement on the western section of the Russian- Chinese state border," Boris Yeltsin said.

In the opinion of the leader of the Russian state, the talks took place "constructively and with complete mutual understanding." As far as concerns the Russian-Chinese border, he said, the only issue remaining unresolved at the present time is the issue "of two islands on the eastern border." The president noted that the leaders of the two countries gave further impetus to the commission which will continue the work on settling this question.

The president of Russia considers that during today's talks "political problems as well as scientific and technical, economic, military-equipment, trade and international problems were touched upon."

The head of the Russian state pointed out that, during the private talks, the sides "discussed and assessed the experience of the progress of the reforms in Russia and China." In the near future, he said, "a special group will be set up to exchange experience in the investment field, and the question of the creation of a joint Russian-Chinese economic zone may also be studied as well."

PRC President Jiang Zemin commended the results of today's meeting and noted that "interstate relations always develop better when the leaders of two states meet more frequently." He announced that "he expects a new visit by the Russian president to the People's Republic of China."

Yeltsin Speaks at Official Reception

LD0309165594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—For Russia, which is in the center of both Europe and Asia, "there is essentially no alternative to active policy both in the West and the East, aimed at realizing our national interests through partnership and normal cooperation with the outside world." Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin declared this today at a state reception in the Faceted Chamber of the

Grand Kremlin Palace in honor of PRC President Jiang Zemin, who is making an official visit to Russia.

This is the first time for 37 years that a PRC president has visited Russia—since 1957, when the then president Mao Zedong was in Moscow to attend the festivities for the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution. Jiang Zemin's first trip to Moscow was even earlier—in 1955 he began a period of work experience at the Zil works, which at that time was named after Iosif Stalin.

The previous summit-level meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin took place in December 1922 during the Russian leader's visit to the PRC. "Russian Federation citizens rightly consider you to be an old friend, and old friends enjoy particular respect in Russia," the president said at the reception.

According to Boris Yeltsin, Russia and China, which are joined by the world's longest frontier, form "as it were, a mutually-linked geographic, resource-filled economic and human space." "President Jiang Zemin and I determined that developing cooperation between Russia and China will without doubt be a top priority in the foreign policy of our two states," he said.

The president described as a "major new step" on the way to establishing highly effective mutually advantageous cooperation between Moscow and Beijing the Joint Declaration signed following today's summit meeting; this lays down that new relations of constructive partnership have emerged between Russia and China.

Boris Yeltsin described today's statement by the two leaders on nontargeting of strategic missiles as "testimony to the new level of trust between our countries and an important contribution to international stability."

Turning to another document signed today, an Agreement on the western part of the Russia-China border, the president emphasized that for the first time in the history of the two countries' relations virtually the entire state border between them has been defined in law. "This is an achievement on an historic scale," he said. According to Boris Yeltsin, "the task now is to demarcate, create a proper border regime, and reduce the number of troops in the region to a mutually-acceptable level."

Further on Yeltsin Remarks

LD0309180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1528 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Russians rightly consider you to be their old friend and Russia has particular respect for its old friends, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today at a state reception in the Granite Chamber of the Grand Kremlin Palace in honor of PRC President Jiang Zemin. We particularly value your great personal contribution to normalizing and developing Russian- Chinese links, he said, addressing the Chinese guest and his spouse.

It is an open secret that our relations have been varied, they have had their ups and downs, the president of the Russian Federation noted. It was not easy for us to arrive at their present state. It is not just a matter here of various kinds of cliches, but of there being a need to build these relations on the basis of the national interests of the two countries, to resolve complex questions, and to find the opportunity to combine two great world civilizations—western and eastern.

The very location of our two countries, our history, the traditional friendship between the Russian and Chinese peoples demands that there should be highly effective and mutually beneficial cooperation between them. All the prerequisites and conditions for this exist, the head of the Russian state said. Today, B. Yeltsin noted, we have taken a new and major step along this path—a joint Russian-Chinese declaration was signed.

This document, that looks toward the 21st century, records the fundamental tenet that new relations have evolved between Russia and China—a constructive partnership based upon genuine equality, neighborliness, friendship, and mutually beneficial cooperation. These relations are not aimed against a third country. They are an important element of stability and security in the world, a major contribution by our countries to the construction of a new political and economic world order.

The statement signed today on the nontargeting of strategic nuclear missiles bears witness to this new level of trust between our countries, the president of Russian Federation said, and is a major contribution to international stability.

Chairman Jiang Zemin and I have determined that the development of cooperation between Russia and China is indisputably a priority direction of the foreign policy of our two states.

Recalling his meeting with the Chinese leadership in Beijing in 1992, B. Yeltsin noted that it was namely then that the foundations of the present relations were laid, that it was agreed with the PRC chairman that all questions will be decided on the basis of neighborliness, trust, and frankness, of consultations and talks.

Today's summit, the president of the Russian Federation said, is marked by another important event—an agreement on the western part of the Russian-Chinese frontier was signed. Thus, for the first time in the history of Russian-Chinese ties, practically all state frontiers between our two countries are fixed by law. This is an achievement of historic scale.

The cooperation that is developing between Russia and China in regional and world affairs is another major sphere of the multifaceted constructive interaction between the two countries aimed at improving the situation in the world.

Next year mankind will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We were with China 50 years ago. Together, at the cost of great sacrifices, we achieved a great victory over Fascism and militarism. I am convinced that the new relations between Russia and China are a guarantee of the preservation of peace throughout the whole world, that such terrible tragedies of mankind will not happen again.

I would like to take the opportunity to convey to the people of China warm greetings and good wishes, Boris Yeltsin said in conclusion. We sincerely wish our great neighbor new successes along the path of carrying out reforms.

Yeltsin on Economic Reform

LD0309133794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1237 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Interview with President Boris Yeltsin by correspondent Yuliy Semenov after the signing of Russian-PRC documents in Moscow on 3 September—recorded]

[Text] [Semenov] Boris Nikolayev, how do you see the relationship between the economic reforms being carried out in China and Russia? And, in particular, is it possible for us to use Chinese experience in investment where they have been particularly successful?

[Yeltsin] This is an interesting question since it was a subject of my private discussions today with the chairman. He, as chairman, has a high opinion of the course of the reforms in Russia. But we, also, have quite a high opinion of the course of the reforms which have been under way for a longer period in the People's Republic of China and we would like to have a mutual sharing of our experience. This was proposed by Chairman Jiang Zemin and we agreed to set up special groups which will travel; and there will be an exchange of experience even, perhaps, on setting up joint free zones. But this is possible after the whole situation has been analyzed. At least, there are things in the reforms which are under way in China which we could use, particularly in investment, as you rightly said.

PRC Foreign Ministry on Cooperation

LD0309163894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The military-technical cooperation between Russia and China is not aimed against any third party, it is being implemented in the frameworks of international commitments of both states and meets interests of peace and security in this region and in the whole world. The negotiations between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin have reconfirmed these principles, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Wu Jianming reported at a briefing in Moscow Saturday.

According to Jianming, during his conversation with Boris Yeltsin Jiang Zemin underlined that both the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are not interested in confrontation and in concluding any allied agreements. These relations should be built on the principles of peaceful coexistence, good neighborhood, and mutual benefit.

At the negotiations Zemin reported that in 1993 the turnover between two countries was $7.68 billion and has exceeded the highest level of turnover between the USSR and China. China is Russia's second trade partner and Russia occupies the seventh place in China's foreign trade relations.

The Russian and the Chinese leaders stated that a slight lowering in the turnover over the fist six months of 1994 is of a temporary nature. They declared that they would encourage and support Russia's and China's business circles which express their wish to invest in the economy of both countries.

According to Wu Jianming, the Russian side showed interest in participation in widescale projects in China.

As he noted, Jiang Zemin wished calm, preserving of territorial integrity, restoration and development of economy to Russia. Zemin spoke in favor of increasing Russia's role in ensuring security in the Asian-Pacific region. For his part, Yeltsin expressed his understanding with respect to China's position concerning the problems of Taiwan and Tibet, the diplomat added.

Russian and Chinese leaders expressed their readiness to make their common contribution into construction of a new international economic order. They called on the international community to encourage mutually beneficial cooperation, resolutely oppose creation of confronting political, economic, and military blocks.

Wu Jianming also reported that the negotiations in the Kremlin discussed the nuclear problem in the North Korea. Yeltsin and Zemin said that this problem should be resolved by means of a dialogue, they welcomed positive moves at the negotiations between North Korea and the United States.

As Wu Jianming said, Boris Yeltsin accepted Jiang Zemin's invitation to pay an official visit to China. Boris Yeltsin expressed his wish not to restrict his visit to China by his staying in Beijing but to visit several other regions of this country.

Jiang Satisfied With Agreements

LD0309164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Chairman of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin expressed satisfaction with the agreements signed in Kremlin on Saturday.

"Autumn is the harvesting time. In Moscow we have reaped a good harvest," he told Federation Council

Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko during their 30-minute meeting. Journalists were denied access to the meeting.

Head of the press center of the Federation Council's administration Yuriy Algunov told journalists that both officials spoke about the cardinal importance of the visit for enhancing Russian-Chinese relations to a qualitatively new level.

The main accent was put on ways of strengthening interparliamentary relations. Algunov said that the two officials were unanimous in believing that the volume and content of inter- parliamentary contacts must correspond to the high level of bilateral relations.

Jiang Zemin invited Shumeyko to visit China. Shumeyko, on behalf of the Federation Council, confirmed the invitation to the chairman of the Permanent Committee of the All-Chinese Assembly of People's Representatives Zao Chi to pay an official visit to Russia in 1995.

In September, Shumeyko is to visit the Amur region bordering on China, where he is expected to analyze a number of border problems, above all border trade. Shumeyko believes that simple trade exchange has become obsolete. The time has come to pass over to multilateral cooperation, including at the regional level, he said.

Jiang Meets State Duma Chairman Rybkin

LD0309170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—"The State Duma is intent on serious and comprehensive work to forge Russian-Chinese interparliamentary cooperation, the aim of which is simple and obvious—to strengthen friendship between the two states for the good of our peoples," Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly emphasized today at a meeting with PRC President Jiang Zemin, who is in Moscow on an official visit.

The State Duma press service reported that during the meeting the two men reaffirmed that they view establishment of interparliamentary links as an important component of the development of the entire spectrum of relations between their countries. Russian and Chinese parliamentarians share an interest in thorough familiarization with both countries' experience of underpinning their reforms with legislation. The importance was noted of a broad exchange of information on the methods and forms of the transformations taking place in Russia and China, and aimed at creating full-blooded market economies.

The conversation proceeded in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, in a spirit of mutual respect and trust. The State Duma chairman recalled an invitation made earlier to Qiao Shi, the chairman of the National People's Congress, to visit Russia in 1995. Jiang Zemin reciprocated by passing to Ivan Rybkin an invitation from the National People's Congress chairman to pay an official visit to the PRC. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

Jiang Comments on Trade

LD0309233494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 September—China "does not support and does not defend illegal, chaotic, and disorderly" commerce between its citizens and Russians, said PRC President Jiang Zemin, who is in the Russian Federation on a five-day visit, today. He delivered a report at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), the forge of Russian diplomatic cadres. [passage omitted]

Russia and China have huge economic potential and are distinguished by the fact that they complement each other to a great extent, Jiang Zemin said. Thanks to joint efforts, a solid base has already been laid for mutual cooperation. The Chinese chairman thinks that "certain disorderly phenomena arising at a time of intensive expansion of bilateral contacts are caused only by the actions of certain individuals and are not dictated by the political directives of one government or another." These problems arose in the process of the rapid transition from isolation and alienation to mutual openness and exchange, and they should not have a negative effect upon the normal development of relations between the two countries.

According to Jiang Zemin, the fundamental position of the Chinese Government is support for the foreign economic activity of "powerful" enterprises and firms "which have recommended themselves well." The Chinese authorities "resolutely combat criminals" and do not encourage illegal emigration, nor do they allow Chinese citizens to inflict damage upon relations of neighborliness and friendship between China and Russia.

Jiang Zemin said that during this visit the leaders of the two countries came to same opinion that tightening control in this sphere would further the development of mutual exchange and cooperation.

The Chinese leader stressed that the main course for the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between China and Russia "cannot be changed under any circumstances."

The authorities of Russian regions bordering on China are expressing ever louder fears in connection with what, in their opinion, is the "Sinification" of Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation. The flood of Chinese is noticeable in Moscow, too; the capital's militia think that there are around 60,000 Chinese "illegals" in the city without legitimate grounds for staying on the territory of the Russian Federation. However, high-ranking spokesmen of the Russian Foreign Ministry think that these fears are clearly exaggerated and call upon the local leaders and the press "not to dramatize the situation."

Yeltsin, Jiang Talk to Reporters

OW0409064294 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Report by station reporter (Smankovtsin) from the Kremlin; from the "Talk of the Day" program]

[Text] On Saturday afternoon, a meeting between the leaders of Russia and the PRC was held in the Kremlin. After the national anthems were played and the exchange of traditional greetings was completed, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin, president of the People's Republic of China, held a one-to-one talk. After the talk, negotiations between the delegations from the two countries were held. The negotiations ended with the signing of joint Russian-Chinese documents.

First, the leaders of the two countries signed the Russian-Chinese joint statement and joint declaration. After that, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed the Sino-Russian Boundary Agreement concerning the western section of the border. After the signing of the documents, the leaders of the two countries answered questions asked by reporters. The following is President Yeltsin's appraisal of the signed documents:

President Yeltsin said: In fact, our relations were suspended for scores of years. It was in 1992 when the Russian president visited the PRC and we signed the joint declaration on the foundation for our mutual relations and cooperation and other agreements. During these two years our cooperation has developed on this foundation. This time, we have signed a complete and faultless declaration on our cooperation, signed the statement on refraining from targeting nuclear guided missiles on each other, and signed a series of agreements on different spheres, which also include the agreement on determining the western section of the border. Only the question of ownership of the two islands at the boundary has not been solved, but the relevant committee is continuing its work. We have decided, through consultations, to step up the work of the committee. The Russian president pointed out: During the meeting and negotiations, we discussed different issues, one of which is the issue of cooperation between the two countries in realizing economic reform.

Yeltsin said: The PRC president has spoken highly of the progress of reform in Russia, and we have also appraised highly the process of reform in China, which has been conducted for a longer period of time. We have agreed to exchange experiences. This was proposed by Jiang Zemin. After discussions, we have decided to form a special group in charge of experience exchanging. Perhaps we may set up common free (?trade) zones. The Russian president expressed the belief that cooperation between the two countries will develop on the basis of a constructive partnership relationship, on the spirit of friendship and trust and, of course, on the basis of mutual equality. After that, PRC President Jiang Zemin spoke to the journalists.

He pointed out: [Begin recording] I am very pleased to have the opportunity to visit Russia. This is my first visit to Russia since becoming the president of the PRC. In recent years, especially since President Yeltsin paid a visit to China in 1992, the relations between the two countries have developed very well. I think we have had a very friendly exchange of views on domestic and international issues, both big and small. Both sides have a common desire to move the good-neighborly relations between China and Russia to a new level through an exchange of mutual visits. [end recording]

The PRC president invited President Yeltsin to pay an official visit to China.

On Sunday, PRC President Jiang Zemin will meet with Russian journalists. In the next two days after Sunday, he will visit (Yetachilinbao) City in the Urals, and then will pay a visit to Ukraine.

Jiang on Sino-U.S. Relations

LD0409121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1024 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Sep—"Relations between China and the United States in the political, economic, scientific, technical, and military spheres are developing successfully," PRC President Jiang Zemin said in reply to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent during a meeting with a group of Russian journalists in the Kremlin today. "Looking at the general development of Chinese-American relations, one can say that it is favorable," he said.

The Chinese leader recalled that in May of this year Bill Clinton made the decision to extend Most-Favored Nation status to China in trade with the United States. Moreover, Jiang Zemin said, the U.S. President "refused to link the decision of this question with human rights in China."

According to the PRC president, during his meeting with Clinton in Seattle last November, the sides "were of the same opinion that a long-term view should be taken of the development of Chinese-U.S. relations, looking toward the 21st century."

Jiang Zemin noted that the Chinese leadership drew attention to the fact that the U.S. Administration is reviewing its policy toward Taiwan. He emphasized in this connection that relations between Peking and Washington "are based on the three joint Chinese-U.S. communiques," which contain a "basic clause stating that there is only one China in the world." The PRC chairman said that U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, who visited China last week, "gave us clearly to understand that the U.S. Administration acknowledges that there is only one China in the world and that the United States will continue to develop its relations with China on the basis of the provisions contained in the three joint Chinese- U.S. communiques."

"The Taiwan question is straightforward and clear-cut," Jiang Zemin said. "All countries maintaining relations with China," he noted, "must acknowledge that the PRC Government is the sole lawful government of China. If the world's states have established diplomatic relations with China, it means that they have undertaken not to establish official relations with Taiwan or to maintain them in any form." The PRC president said at the same time that the Chinese Government has nothing against such states developing informal trade and economic relations with Taiwan.

Jiang Says Talks With Yeltsin 'Very Good'

LD0409125094 Russia ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1109 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Sep—Jiang Zemin, chairman of the PRC, called his talks with President of Russia Boris Yeltsin on 3 Sep "very good." "This visit is giving me a feeling of great warmth," he said today during a meeting with a group of Russian journalists in the Kremlin.

In the words of Jiang Zemin, commercial and economic relations between China and Russia have been developing very successfully over the past two years and "a great potential for their development exists." He expressed the point of view that the certain drop in the volume of trade turnover between the two countries which has been observed this year is a "temporary phenomenon", having noted that an increase or decrease in the volume of trade turnover is quite normal in the practice of international trade. "As neighborly and friendly relations develop between China and the Russian Federation, commercial and economic relations between us, without fail, will also develop successfully with broad prospects," the chairman said.

In reply to a question on the growth of the number of Chinese illegally on the territory of Russia, Jiang Zemin said now that Moscow and Peking have ended their mutual alienation and are developing neighborly and friendly relations, the exchange between people is also growing. The chairman of the PRC admitted that "certain disorderly phenomena" had arisen here and that "measures should be taken to eliminate them." He expressed the confidence that these questions can be resolved through the joint efforts of both sides.

According to Jiang Zemin, the Chinese Government's stance is that "we fight law-breaking elements resolutely." He voiced the hope that the Russian party would likewise take measures to defend the interests of Chinese citizens "involved in normal and lawful commercial and economic activities." The Government of the PRC, he noted, "will encourage cooperation between powerful and reliable companies and enterprises of the two countries" and trips to China by Russian businessmen for developing cooperation with Chinese partners. "In this context, a splendid future will definitely appear for our relations," Jiang Zemin said.

The PRC chairman expressed a point of view on the importance of Russia and China exchanging experience in the process of implementing reform. At the same time, he said that both parties have their own peculiarities and "it is very difficult to take in the world with one model of development." "One should not imitate mechanically what other countries do." "Sooner or later, the people of any state will find the path of development which suits the internal conditions of that country," the Chinese chairman said.

Jiang Greets Mir Cosmonauts

LD0409171994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1640 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 4 Sep—"Dear cosmonauts, I am very happy to have this opportunity of meeting you," these were the words used by PRC President Jiang Zemin, speaking on a communications link, to greet the cosmonauts on the orbital station "Mir." The Chinese leader today visited the Flight Control Center in the town of Kaliningrad near Moscow. The PRC leader expressed satisfaction at the successful docking of the transport-cargo ship "Progress M-24" with the "Mir" space station.

"You have made a great contribution to space exploration," Jiang Zemin stressed, congratulating the cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko, Talgat Musabayev, and Valeriy Polyakov on their successful work in orbit. [passage omitted]

The PRC president viewed an exhibition of Russian space technology achievements with great interest. In an interview to Russian journalists he noted that there are broad prospects for cooperation between the two countries in the field of space. "I wish Russia new successes in developing space exploration," Jiang Zemin stressed.

Jiang Arrives in Yekaterinburg

LD0509091094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0815 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Yekaterinburg, 5 September—Jiang Zemin, chairman [as received] of the PRC, who is in Russia on an official visit, arrived in Yekaterinburg today.

In the second half of the day, the esteemed Chinese guest will visit the Urals optical and mechanical factory production association which delivers products for the needs of the Chinese army which has among its armaments Soviet-produced equipment.

In the evening of the same day, it is expected that the Chairman of the PRC will meet the leaders of Sverdlovsk oblast.

Visits Defense Plant

LD0509202694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nadezhda Potapova]

[Text] Yekaterinburg September 5 TASS—Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin, who arrived in the Urals on Monday, met regional heads of the Sverdlovsk region. During the meeting Jiang Zemin said that regions of the two countries might play a big role in the development of trade relations between Russia and China.

Zemin began his trip to Yekaterinburg by a visit to the Urals optics and mechanical plant which supplies optic-electronic systems for SU-27 planes to the Chinese Army. Recently, a large load of such equipment worth over 3.5 million dollars was delivered to China. The Urals plant has another partner in China, the Chinese import-export tea company in Shanghai which buys theodolites.

The high-ranking Chinese guest visited a number of shops of the plant and asked questions about new technologies and measures of precaution used at the plant to protect workers. The Chinese chairman expressed understanding as he listened to proposals made by the plant managers on signing long-term agreements for the supply of equipment and a separate agreement between China and the Sverdlovsk region envisaging the establishment of companies in the Sverdlovsk region and China, working on a stable basis, rather than casual companies producing low-quality goods.

The Chinese chairman expressed similar understanding towards proposals made by the governor of the Sverdlovsk region, Aleksey Strakhov, at a meeting at the local administration. In Strakhov's opinion, defence enterprises of the Sverdlovsk region might sell weapons and spare parts to the Chinese Army on agreement with the Russian Government and in the course of conversion create joint ventures with Chinese partners for the production of consumer goods. Machine-building enterprises of the Sverdlovsk region, its planning institutes might take part in the modernisation of the Chinese industry, transport, electric power stations and the construction of nuclear power stations.

"I see broad prospects for cooperation," said the Chinese chairman. "Like your people, I know the Urals and Yekaterinburg very well as the center of scientific and industrial potential," he said, adding that China was prepared for coordinated trade activities.

Jiang Ends Visit, Leaves for Ukraine

LD0609111794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nadezhda Potapova]

[Text] Yekaterinburg September 6 TASS—"I wish China and Russia steady development of cooperation...," Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin wrote in the distinguished visitors' book at the Uralmash Heavy Engineering Works in Yekaterinburg on Tuesday.

Later in the day, he departed from this Urals city for Kiev after the end of his official visit to Russia.

During his visit to Moscow, the Chinese leader held talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and had meetings with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and the speakers of the Russian parliament's two chambers.

Yeltsin and Jiang signed the joint Russian-Chinese declaration and the joint statement providing for non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles and non-use of nuclear weapons first.

China and Russia also signed the agreement on the Russian-Chinese state border at its western part, the agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs affairs, protocols on trade and economic cooperation in 1994 and on shipping from the Ussuri (Wusuli) River to the Amur (Heilung) River past the city of Khabarovsk and back.

The Russian and Chinese leaders praised the intensive and fruitful development of relations between the two countries after the first Russian-Chinese summit in December 1992 and are fully determined, mindful of the 21st century, to raise relations between the two nations to a qualitatively new level.

Russia and China expressed a desire to push for cutting armed forces in the border area to a minimum level.

During his Yekaterinburg visit, Jiang inspected with great interest products and achievements accomplished by three enterprises in the city—the Urals Optical-Mechanical Factory, Uralmash and the turbo-engine factory.

Jiang pointed to his readiness to promote the expansion of partnership relations between China and the mid-Urals while he inspected workshops of the Urals factories and at talks with regional Governor Aleksey Strakhov.

China was the first foreign partner for Uralmash which started deliveries of its equipment to China in 1948 after the conversion of munitions factories built there during the war years.

Uralmash was the main designer and producer of equipment for a dozen of engineering and metallurgical enterprises rising in China at that time and the teacher for hundreds of Chinese specialists.

Contacts slackened in the 1970s-1980s. China placed only several orders for machine-tools over this period, including one for a single walking excavator. The two sides are now making efforts to resume cooperation.

PRC Declaration, Nuclear Missile Pact Summarized

LD0309102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0927 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov, Anna Melnikova, and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin signed a joint Russian-Chinese declaration at the end of their summit meeting in the Kremlin, heralding "new relations based on constructive partnership" between the largest country in the world and the state with the world's greatest population. The document says that the relations of genuine equality, good-neighborliness, friendship, and mutually beneficial cooperation between Moscow and Beijing are based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, "do not have the nature of an alliance and are not directed against any third country."

Russia and China, the declaration says, "are absolutely determined, as they look toward the 21st Century, to raise relations between the two countries to a qualitatively new level, thereby opening up to the full and making use of the considerable potential of Russian-Chinese cooperation." In the sphere of trade-economic ties, the sides specifically declared their desire to consistently implement the transition to forms of economic ties that matched international standards; to increase the proportion of major cooperation sites; to improve external economic legislation; to direct commercial activities into a channel subject to normative enactments; and to actively develop co-production between the regions of Russia and China. The heads of the two states stressed the "mutually complementary nature" of their economies.

The document does not mention directly any arrangements for supplying Russian weapons to China. At the same time, it states the intention of Moscow and Beijing to "continue and broaden exchanges and cooperation" in the military-political sphere, not directed against any third countries and taking into account the policy and international obligations of each side, as well as the interests of regional and global stability and security.

The two sides expressed their determination to do all they can to speed up the drawing-up of an agreement on the mutual reduction of the armed forces and strengthening trust in the military sphere, and on the basis of this agreement to reduce the armed forces in the border area to the minimum level appropriate for the long-term good- neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries. The troops which will stay in the border area are to have "an unequivocally defensive structure."

The leaders of Russia and China expressed their wish to "strengthen cooperation to avert the threat of proliferation of mass destruction weapons and equipment for delivering them, and to actively contribute to the talks on the overall ban on nuclear tests with a view to promptly concluding a treaty on this issue." They stressed their support for extending the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and said they would welcome it if all states which have not yet joined the treaty would do this.

Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin declared the intention of Moscow and Peking to mutually help step up the involvement of Russia and China in multilateral cooperation, including in the Asia-Pacific Ocean region.

At the same time, a joint statement was signed by the Russian Federation president and the PRC chairman at the St. Vladimir Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace, which says that "measures have been taken to ensure the non-targeting of strategic nuclear missiles belonging to the two countries." The Russian and Chinese leaders confirmed their countries' promise not to use force against each other and, more specifically, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against each other. The document is of a political nature and does not specify what measures have been taken to de-target missiles. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by a highly-placed official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the statement speaks of a degree of trust between the two countries. Analogous agreements were earlier concluded with the United States and Great Britain.

PRC Official Neither Confirms, Denies Test Rumors

LD0409085894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0647 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Sep—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has failed to deny the possibility of China carrying out a nuclear test in October. Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent at a news conference held in Moscow today on the occasion of PRC President Jiang Zemin's visit to Russia, he said the mass media had circulated various reports to this effect. "I can neither confirm nor deny them," the minister said.

In Qian Qichen's words, China has always adhered to a very cautious approach to carrying out nuclear tests. "Suffice it to say that, amongst the five nuclear powers, the PRC has carried out the least number of explosions," he said. "However, we have indeed not yet undertaken an obligation to observe one-sidedly the moratorium on carrying out nuclear tests—this is a fact." China advocates a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests and that an agreement to this effect should be reached not later than 1996, and it is taking an active part in the discussion of the issue, the PRC foreign minister said.

Qian Qichen Says Border Issue 95 Percent Resolved

LD0409114494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] According to RIA, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said at a news conference in Moscow today that the protocol on the western part of the Russian-Chinese state border signed in Moscow defines 95 percent of the section. Therefore, the minister thinks, the issue regarding this part of the border has now been resolved.

As for the remaining part of the border, Qian Qichen said, there are still one or two sections which need a final decision. The sides agreed in Moscow to speed up the process, the Chinese minister said.

Views Results of Summit Talks

LD0409114694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0919 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Sep—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin have agreed to build up relations of a new type of constructive partnership. These relations are not directed against any third countries. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said this today when he summed up the results of the Russian-Chinese summit talks.

Such a partnership, he told a Moscow news conference, presupposes that "the two sides will not confront each other or enter into a bilateral alliance." They will be long-term relations of good- neighborliness, friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation, and stability, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Such relations also rule out trying to influence each other on specific matters of world affairs, Qian Qichen emphasized.

Pointing out the importance of the package of bilateral documents that has been signed in Moscow, the minister noted that a feature of them is their "broad content," and they define the area for further development of cooperation on the basis of the principles laid down in the Joint Declaration.

The leaders of the two countries, the minister said, share the view that bilateral links ought to be strengthened at various levels and in various spheres. In particular, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has accepted an invitation from PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin to visit China again. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is awaiting the arrival in Moscow of PRC State Council Premier Li Peng. The leaders of the two countries' parliaments have also agreed to exchange visits.

"We are convinced that such contacts will help deepen mutual understanding, and this indeed promises a fine outlook for the development of bilateral cooperation," Qian Qichen emphasized.

Border Accord Signed With PRC

LD0309102694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0945 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov, Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Joint Russian-Chinese documents were signed in the Kremlin today. President Yeltsin and Chairman of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin signed a joint declaration on the mutual non-training of strategic nuclear missiles on each other and a just Russian-Chinese declaration on the main directions of the long-term development of bilateral relations.

The foreign ministers of the two countries signed an agreement on the Russian-Chinese state border in its western part.

Official Explains Border Agreement

LD0309105994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Kirillov, Anna Melnikova, and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen, after the summit meeting in the Kremlin, today signed an agreement on the western part of the Russian-Chinese state border. And although it concerns only a 55-km section in Altay Kray, the signing of this agreement, which needs to be ratified by the parliaments of the two countries, virtually completes the legal drawing up of the whole line of the border between the two states for the first time in the history of their relations.

In a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, a high-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry said that the territorial issue with China has, thus, already "99 percent solved." According to him, "the sides have no problems or disagreements over the western part of the border, so the talks were successful." The diplomat stressed that no territorial concessions by one side or the other were involved.

An agreement on the eastern part of the border was signed between the former USSR and China in 1991.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry representative, no solution has yet been found to the question of such disputed territories as the island of Tarabarov and Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy near Khabarovsk and Bolshoy

Island in the River Argun, which are claimed by both sides. "There are no big advances here," the diplomat admitted, without ruling out the possibility that the solution of these questions may take several years and may even be passed on to the next generation.

Qian on Illegal Immigration

LD0409143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Moscow September 4 (TASS)—The problem of mass illegal influx of Chinese citizens to Russian Far Eastern regions is "overbloated", said Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at a news conference which was held in Moscow on Sunday on the occasion of Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin's visit to Russia.

"I heard that allegedly well-nigh two million Chinese settled in Russia in areas bordering China. This is simply impossible." Qian noted that any citizen should undergo appropriate formalities when crossing the border.

Such a scale of immigration is physically impossible. "The question is that an insignificant number of Chinese citizens who arrived in Russia, do not return to China in time after the visa expiration," the minister assured.

At the same time, Qian voiced support for streamlining contacts between citizens of the two countries, including border areas.

Authorities in Russian districts bordering China expressed growing concern in recent past over uncontrolled settlement of Chinese nationals in Siberia and the Far East, which results in "Chinisation" of that vast region of Russia.

According to Moscow militia, some 60,000 Chinese settled illegally even in the Russian capital.

Kozyrev Comments on Jiang Visit

LD0509220594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1831 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The visit of PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin to the Russian Federation characterizes a new stage in relations between the two countries, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an interview to the Russian TV program "Podrobnosti." He pointed out that the high-ranking guest's trip had enabled many problems that had arisen between the PRC and Russian Federation to be resolved. This concerned frontier problems in particular.

The foreign minister recalled the work of Jiang Zemin as a young man at the Likhachev motor vehicle works. He said the present PRC chairman knew and respected Russian culture. Not for nothing were Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Gogol among his favorite writers and Tchaikovsky was among his favorite composers. This love of Russian culture could only be welcomed at such a high level, Andrey Kozyrev said.

In the program it was recalled that PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin, who is in Russia on an official visit, had arrived in Yekaterinburg today. This is the second visit of a high-ranking Chinese leader to the Central Urals—in 1950 Mao Tsetung came here. This region of Russia is linked to China by strong links and bonds of friendship. After the temporary break caused by the "cultural revolution" the restoration of partnership links began in 1989.

Kozyrev on Jiang, Policy Toward U.S.

LD0509222294

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 5 September carries the "Podrobnosti" program moderated by Nikolay Svanidze and featuring an 8-minute recorded interview, broadcast with poor quality, with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev devoted to Jiang Zemin's visit to Russia and Sino-Russian relations. Kozyrev is asked about Jiang's characteristics as a man and politician. He replies that he is a very open person, a jovial man, civilized to talk to. He understands Russian without an interpreter; he possibly understands everything.

Svanidze then recounts the history of Sino-Russian relations from Stalin's time and notes that neither the bloody 1989 events in Beijing nor the August 1991 events in Moscow prevented the dialogue between the two countries from going ahead. Yeltsin's visit to Beijing in December 1992 was recognized as successful and Jiang's visit is in reply to it.

Kozyrev says the first reaction of our Chinese neighbors was rather careful and considered. They started to try it for taste, wondering what whether this was some kind of game betweeen East and West or whether our policy in the East was some kind of extrapolation of what was happening in the West.

Vladimir Baturov begins a commentary, noting that China is making a certain diversion from the ideological factor, and it is significant that at the last CPC Congress, foreign delegations were not represented at all. During his visit, Jiang did not meet the opposition, including the communists. Nor has Peking any love for the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia or, of course, for its leader [Vladimir Zhirinovskiy].

Asked by Svanidze if the withdrawal of troops from Germany and the visit of the Chinese head of state are connected, Kozyrev says: In fact, we are consciously building our policy in such a way that events such as summit meetings in the East should go hand-in-hand with such events in the West too. It is not contrived, but it is not completely accidental that this year, for instance, in January, we had a visit from President Clinton, and I made my visit to Beijing, and in September there is to be a return visit by our President to the United States. This does not mean that we are plaing the China card in American policy and the American card in Chinese policy; that would be cheap. But for Russia, naturally, the great power in the East—China - and the great Western power—the United States—which for us is in the East—naturally they go hand-in-hand.

Russia To Urge West To Support Serb Leaders

LD0609124294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Russia will urge the Western partners in the Contact Group to support the position of the Serb leaders who backed up the international peace plan on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and terminated political and economic contacts with the Bosnian Serbs who had rejected the plan, diplomatic sources informed Interfax before the opening in Berlin on Tuesday of a session of the international Contact Group for the settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax that the Berlin session would consider the entire complex of problems pertaining to the normalization of the situation in this part of former Yugoslavia.

On September 6, experts will gather in Berlin, and on September 7 the session will be held at a higher level. Russia will be represented by the Russian president's special envoy in former Yugoslavia, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

Churkin Warns Against Lifting Bosnia Arms Embargo

LD0509130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1128 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspodnent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep—The battalion of Russian blue helmets which forms part of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] will be recalled from Sarajevo if the embargo on arms supplies to the Muslim side is lifted. This was stated today by Vitaliy Churkin, a Russian deputy foreign minister, who was answering a question from an ITAR- TASS correspondent. The diplomat did not rule out the possibility that the French and British peacekeeping contingents will also be withdrawn from Sarajevo.

In the opinion of Vitaliy Churkin, the lifting of the embargo may lead to tension in the Balkans escalating and to events developing uncontrollably. The diplomat stressed that what is at issue, looking at the larger picture, is the end of the UN peacekeeping operation in the region but in this event someone should assume responsibility.

According to him, the Russian side is putting up earnest resistance to such a step and is finding sympathy among other members of the UN Security Council which is to examine this problem on 15 October.

As far as the "Rusbat-1" [Russian battalion - 1], which is deployed in Croatia, is concerned, the period of its UN peacekeeping mandate expires at the end of September. According to Vitaliy Churkin, it may be extended for another six months, as has often been the case in the past. However, the lifting of the embargo on the delivery of weapons may quite well lead to the withdrawal of the "Rusbat-1" from the region.

Kozyrev: Forces To Leave if Embargo Lifted

LD0309205494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Nine hundred and seven Russian soldiers are currently serving in former Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

Britain and France have said repeatedly that if the embargo on the supply of arms to the Bosnian Muslims is lifted, they would withdraw their contingents from Yugoslavia. What future then awaits the Russian peacekeepers and under what conditions will our soldiers be pulled out of the country in the Balkans?

[Begin recording, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev] If it comes to the worst—that is, if there will be some military measures, including, say, NATO air strikes, or if the embargo on arms supplies to region is lifted—in that case, as we have already told our partners in the international community, our contingent will not be able to stay on, because its functions will have to be changed. It will have to transform from a peacekeeping contingent into a part of combat operations. [end recording]

Gaydar on Talks With Bosnian Serb Leader

LD0509165694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1537 GMT 5 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] Leader of Russia's Democratic Choice and the State Duma's largest faction Yegor Gaydar said that after his meeting with Serb Head of State Radovan Karadzic in Pale he had ascertained that Karadzic "is unwilling to compromise and to accept the plan of the Contact Group." Gaydar said in an interview with Interfax on his return to Moscow that he had tried to persuade Karadzic but had failed.

Last week Gaydar and other leaders of Russia's Democratic Choice visited Belgrade on the invitation of the Serb Democratic Party and met with leaders of the

United Republic of Yugoslavia. Gaydar also visited Pale and met with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Gaydar said Karadzic wants the plan for division of the territory to ensure reliable communications for the country. Gaydar said he had failed to convince Karadzic that the world community was not about to review its plan for Balkans peace settlement since any "revision inspired by Bosnian Serbs will be rejected by Croates and Moslems."

At the same time, Gaydar stressed that Karadzic and his supported had realized that interaction with Russia's opposition could only bring them to a deadlock. Gaydar said it was understood that those radicals have no opportunities to carry out their promises.

Gaydar considered his visit to the Balkans as constructive and useful. He said it helped him to understand what was going on there. Gaydar added that he was seriously concerned over possible escalation of armed confrontation.

Karadzic Pleased With Visit

LD0309123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0516 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Sep—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic in Bosnia, received Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Democratic Choice, in Pale on Friday evening after his arrival from Belgrade. Before the meeting, the Russian politician said the aim of his talks with the Bosnian Serb leadership is to familiarize himself with the situation in Serb Bosnia and to look for a way out of the situation that has arisen. Ye. Gaydar stressed that it is a priority for Russia to achieve stabilization in the Balkans, Yugoslavia, and Bosnia.

R. Karadzic expressed satisfaction at the arrival of the Russian politician in Pale. It is a great honor for us to receive the leader of a large Russian party at a time when people are talking of the Bosnian Serbs as "the party of war" and opponents of peace. We hope to see an objective assessment of our position, he said.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Karadzic Remarks

LD0209130294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic's declared intention to stop supplies of power, gas, water, and foodstuffs to Muslim and Croat enclaves in Bosnia-Herzegovina has provoked an adverse reaction in Moscow. A high-ranking employee in the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry stated this to INTERFAX.

Diplomat Criticizes Bosnian Serb Plan

LD0209154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic's announcement of plans to block food, water, and energy supplies to the Muslim and Croatian enclaves has evoked a negative reaction from Moscow.

"The measure could end up being counter-productive," a senior Russian diplomat told INTERFAX on Friday. The diplomat does not rule out that the Muslims and Croats who backed up the international peace plan could complain of being put under pressure which "will complicate the Bosnian peace process still further."

Western reports say Karadzic, speaking in parliament at Pale, threatened to leave the Muslims and Croats with meagre supplies unless Belgrade lifts its blockade against Bosnian Serbs.

Belgrade cut off political and economic ties with Bosnian Serbs early last month because of their refusal to accept the latest international peace plan. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev visiting ex-Yugoslavia last weekend expressed support for Belgrade's action and called for lifting some of the international sanctions against it.

The Russian diplomatic source expressed regret over reports that the United States would seek a UN resolution to lift the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims and to toughen sanctions against Belgrade.

He said Moscow considered the lifting the arms embargo as an extreme measure. In his view, the measure is likely to lead to the withdrawal of international peacekeepers in the wake of renewed fighting in Bosnia.

Grachev 'Not Too Optimistic' About Fleet Solution

LD0309142094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1305 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has said he is not too optimistic about prospects for an early solution to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet in view of Valeriy Shmarov's appointment to the post of Ukrainian defence minister.

"I cannot say categorically yes or no on this question. I have tried already twice to start joint work with the Ukrainian military leadership," Grachev said in an interview with Interfax.

In his words, the former Ukrainian defence chiefs Konstantin Morozov and Vitaliy Radetskyy "tried to convince me at first stages that they had the best relations with Russia and said that all disputes will be settled peacefully to mutual advantage." However, Grachev pointed out, a constructive dialogue with Ukrainian counterparts has not come off.

He admitted that he is not personally familiar with Shmarov. "I know that he has fresh views on military cooperation with Russia and that he is eager to meet me to discuss the issue," Grachev remarked.

At the same time, he voiced concern that such people" as Bizhan (first deputy defence minister - IF), the Ukrainian navy commander (Vladimir Bezkorovaynyy - IF) [Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy], and some other generals have been kept in their high military department offices. I do not think that they will change their views on relations with Russia overnight. And their views, especially those of Ivan Bizhan, have been extremely negative and at times nationalist toward Russia," Grachev said.

He is sure that Russian-Ukrainian relations in the military field can really yield fruit, if Shmarov "make changes in the defence ministry and general headquarters and appoint competent people, really desiring to cooperate with Russia."

At the same time, he stressed that this matter was an internal affair of the Ukrainian military department, and he was only voicing his own point of view.

Suggests Ukrainian Defense Ministry Reshuffle

LD0309201394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The situation surrounding the Black Sea Fleet issue is unlikely to change with the appointment of a new defense minister in Ukraine, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev believes. He said he had already made two attempts to get work going with his Ukrainian colleagues. But, though at the beginning the republic's former defense ministers had assured Grachev they were on good terms with Russia, there has been no constructive dialogue, Pavel Grachev said. If Valeriy Shmarov carries out a reshuffle in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, then relations between Russia and Ukraine in the military sphere could produce results, Pavel Grachev believes.

Comments on Relations With Ukraine

LD0509201994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 5 Sep 94

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"I cannot say categorically yes or no on this question. I have tried already twice to start joint work with the Ukrainian military leadership," Grachev said in an interview with INTERFAX.

In his words, the former Ukrainian defence chiefs Konstantin Morozov and Vitaliy Radetskiy "tried to convince me at first stages that they had the best relations with Russia and said that all disputes will be settled peacefully to mutual advantage." However, Grachev pointed out, a constructive dialogue with Ukrainian counterparts has not come off.

He admitted that he is not personally familiar with Shmarov. "I know that he has fresh views on military cooperation with Russia and that he is eager to meet me to discuss the issue," Grachev remarked.

At the same time, he voiced concern that such people" as Bizhan (first deputy defence minister - IF), the Ukrainian navy commander (Vladimir Bezkorovaini - IF), and some other generals have been kept in their high military department offices. I do not think that they will change their views on relations with Russia overnight. And their views, especially those of Ivan Bizhan, have been extremely negative and at times nationalist toward Russia," Grachev said.

He is sure that Russian-Ukrainian relations in the military field can really yield fruit, if Shmarov "makes changes in the defence ministry and general headquarters and appoints competent people, really desiring to cooperate with Russia."

At the same time, he stressed that this matter was an internal affair of the Ukrainian military department, and he was only voicing his own point of view.

Moscow To Restore Trade With Iraq After Lifting Embargo

LD0509135294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—Russia favours restoring trade and economic relations with Iraq in the previous volume after the sanctions against it are lifted. Russian Minister of External Economic Relations Oleg Davydov said this at the first meeting of the mixed Russian-Iraqi commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation. The meeting opened in Moscow on Monday. "The present meeting can give an impetus to cooperation with Iraq as a reliable partner and determine the character of and prospects for this cooperation", Davydov said. "We hope that the embargo on trade with Iraq will soon be lifted", he said.

"Russia has always been regarded as a country friendly to Iraq. It was one of Iraq's main trading partners before the sanctions had been imposed", said Muhammad Salih, the Iraqi minister of trade. The embargo caused much damage to Iraq's economy, the minister said. Iraq lost 65 billion dollars as a result of the stoppage of trade and economic relations with other countries over four year of the operation of sanctions. The consumption of food and medicines dropped by half because of shortages. Infant mortality rose 13 times. More than one million Iraqis died of hunger and diseases over this period.

At the same time, despite a difficult situation, Iraq does not repudiate its foreign debt. It intends to begin repaying the debt to Russia immediately after the sanctions are lifted. "Therefore we hope that the Russian side will not refuse actions that could have a positive effect on the settlement of the matter", the minister said.

The meeting will work till September 9 in seven subcommittees and must prepare for the signing an appropriate agreement on commercial and economic cooperation between Russia and Iraq, an economic adviser to the Russian minister of external economic relations told ITAR-TASS.

Trade Talks With Iraq Begin in Moscow

LD0509123294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1058 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep—The first sitting of the joint Russian- Iraqi commission on trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation opened in Moscow today.

The Russian representative, Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov, noted while opening the sitting that its work will help to restore trade and economic relations with Iraq to the old levels, give an additional impetus to bilateral cooperation, and define its nature and prospects for the period after the lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq. In O. Davydov's opinion, the embargo could be lifted shortly.

Iraqi trade minister Muhammad Salih expressed gratitude to the Russian side for joint actions taken with the aim of lifting the sanctions imposed on his country. He noted that Russia has always been regarded as a friendly state with which Iraq would like to restore relations in full. Despite the fact that the country's economy has been severely hit by the sanctions, Iraq guarantees it will pay off its debt to Russia in full, M. Salih pointed out. We hope Russia will retain its role as one of Iraq's main partners, the minister said.

Russian-Iraqi Committee Begins Moscow Meetings

JN0509202394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep (INA)—Meetings of the Joint Iraqi- Russian Committee for Trade Exchange and Economic and Technical Cooperation began at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations in Moscow today. They will last five days.

The Iraqi side is led by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, while the Russian side is led by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov. Senior Russian officials from the Ministries of Foreign Economic Relations, Industry, Fuel and Energy, Finance, and Foreign Affairs are participating in the meetings.

At the outset of the meetings, Davydov welcomed the Iraqi delegation, and asserted that the joint committee meetings are both an important step on the path of lifting the economic blockade and the beginning of a new phase in cooperation relations between Russia and Iraq.

Davydov added that these meetings will give great importance and momentum to promoting cooperation with Iraq in the economic fields both in the current phase and in the future. He stressed Russia's consistent position and desire to increase and promote cooperation with Iraq in various fields.

Davydov expressed regret over the continued unfair economic blockade imposed on Iraq, emphasizing that this embargo will inevitably be lifted after Iraq fulfilled all its commitments in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. He also expressed his conviction that the coming phase will witness further cooperation and promotion in various Iraqi-Russian relations in addition to exchanging visits and delegations on various levels. He lauded Iraq's readiness to fulfill its commitments despite the difficult circumstances it is facing.

For his part, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih briefed the Russian delegation on the extent of the damage inflicted on Iraq as a result of the aggression and the embargo, which has now been in force for four years. He said: The aggression and the embargo have aggravated economic resources, which used to guarantee $16 billion-worth of trade and economic exchange with Russia and several countries in the world each year. He noted that the international economy has lost $65 billion in business opportunities with Iraq in the past four years.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih reaffirmed Iraq's desire and eagerness to expand and develop the various ties of cooperation with the Russian Federation. He stressed that lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq will provide a bigger opportunity for Russian companies to help execute several projects in Iraq. He noted the need for a quick resumption of cooperation and economic and trade exchange between the two countries.

Eight sub-committees, comprising 40 officials from both countries, emanated from the joint committee. The sub-committees began their meetings to discuss the various aspects of joint cooperation between Iraq and Russia, especially in the fields of economy, trade, finance, oil, energy, minerals, and electricity.

The trade minister arrived in Moscow yesterday, Sunday, at the head of a delegation comprising representatives from the ministries of industry, oil, trade, foreign affairs, and finance to lead the Iraqi side to the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Russian committee for trade exchange and economic and technical cooperation.

Moscow Welcomes Cuba's Decision To Ban Nuclear Weapons

LD0509184994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1722 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—A resolution announced by the Cuban Government to accede to a treaty which bans nuclear weapons in Latin America aroused a positive response from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

A statement made by the Russian Foreign Ministry which came to ITAR-TASS on Monday expressed the hope that the step taken by the Cuban Government would promote the growth of mutual confidence between states of the region, increase the prestige of Cuba's foreign policy and improve the situation around Cuba.

The Russian Foreign Ministry regards Cuba's decision to accede to the treaty banning nuclear weapons as the evidence of its responsible approach to nuclear affairs and a major contribution to strengthening the regime of nuclear non-proliferation not in the framework of the region only, but on a global scale.

"The completion of juridical formation of a nuclear-free zone in Latin America after the remaining states accede to the treaty banning nuclear weapons in Latin America would promote the strengthening of international stability, creation of favourable conditions for further development of international cooperation in the field of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes," the statement said.

Americans 'Treading on Their Own Toes' Over Cuba

MM0509134994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Bay: "Fidel Intends To Reserve People's Right To Give Birth at Sea. 'Long Haul' Predicted for Cuban-U.S. Talks on Emigration Questions"]

[Text] U.S. officials spoke with unexpected optimism about the results of the first round of talks between Cuban and U.S. delegations that began last Thursday in New York. A State Department spokesman described them as "serious, professional, and businesslike."

The five-man delegation from Havana is led by an experienced die-hard—Ricardo Alarcon, former foreign minister and Cuban representative to the United Nations, now chairman of the National Assembly. He had already taken part, not unsuccessfully, in the previous talks with the United States in 1984 and was also a member of the delegation that concluded the agreement for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

The level of the U.S. side is not so high—Michael Skol, a second-ranker from the State Department's Latin American division.

Despite the businesslike start, the participants in the talks have ended up, as expected, in stalemate. The Americans want only one thing—an immediate end to the "unrestrained and dangerous emigration" from Cuba, In exchange they are willing to increase the quotas for Cuban migrants' legal access to their territory. In 1984 both countries agreed that the United States would grant around 20,000 visas a year; however, in reality no more than 2,700 people a year have been given permission to enter. Now Washington is allegedly ready to raise the quota to 27,000.

In return the Americans are demanding that Castro take vigorous steps to suppress illegal emigration from the island. But they are thus treading on their own toes. For 30 years the United States has in one way or another encouraged an illegal exodus of Cubans from the island. Now it is demanding that Castro take away the only freedom that his utterly tormented people possess—the freedom to leave the island aboard anything they like, save merchant ships and military cutters, in any direction. In effect, by demanding democracy of the regime, they are urging the dictator to step up repression once again.

The Cuban position, which as usual constitutes a bunch of demagogic postures, is not so vulnerable. The wily Alarcon has managed to package Castro's main demand in acceptable terms: Stop the blockade, and then we will talk about democracy.

The U.S. side is, of course, refusing to swallow this bait (according to Skol, the United States intends to discuss only questions of emigration at the meeting). However, Castro's propaganda hook continually catches big fish swimming in West European [as published] political waters. The Cuban community in Miami has already grown hoarse trying to persuade the French, the Spanish, and the Canadians that the embargo has nothing to do with Cubans' tragic position, that Cuba has been reduced to "this state" by the thoughtless policy pursued by Castro himself.

While diplomats moving from one New York building to another are unsuccessfully trying to agree on something, U.S. Coast Guard ships are picking up around 1,500 Cuban refugees a day off Florida's shores. Some navigators are studying new sea routes and heading for overseas

British territories for help—to the Cayman Islands. One such group increased its numbers by one en route—a refugee gave birth to a child in mid-ocean. And the 91-year old Cuban woman who had lost hope of getting reform from Castro and crossed the ocean on an inflatable can obviously be included in the Guinness Book of Records.

Gorbachev Says Government Unable To Solve Problems

LD0509160994 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 1541 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Weimar (DDP/ADN)—Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has described the situation in Russia as "difficult if not critical." The current government is not in a position to solve the problems, Gorbachev told a news conference in Weimar today. It is even giving up democratic positions which were achieved during the phase of perestroyka.

In his view it is conceivable that power could be transferred in elections to those forces which want to return the country to the period before perestroyka. It might, therefore, soon be necessary to create a "Democratic Alternative" to the current government, the establishment of which he would play a part in.

Gorbachev reiterated his position that the expropriations carried out between 1945 and 1949 were irreversible. "I don't see any lack of clarity here," the former state president said. They always assumed that the current state of affairs was permanent. The government of the united Germany has only to clarify the question of compensation, but not restitution.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Behavior During Berlin Ceremony Criticized

MM0609101794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Albert Plutnik: "Down Which Street—With a Band?"]

[Text] It may certainly have been the greatest event in European postwar history. The new Russia, always remembering the spring of 1945 and the price at which we secured victory, and at the same time acting in the spirit of the new political thinking, completed the withdrawal of its troops from the new Germany. There were moments, as we watched the television relay of the celebrations to mark this event, when we all experienced a surge of pride for our country, for this act to definitively reconcile two great states, an act which they took almost 50 years to accomplish with such difficulty.

But there were also quite different moments. During which millions of our compatriots experienced quite different feelings, to whit extreme awkwardness, not to say shame. I am referring to at least one scene during the celebrations when Boris Yeltsin, distracted from protocol so to speak, assumed functions that are totally uncharacteristic of a politician and began to conduct one of the bands involved in the celebrations. Naturally, not only we but the whole world saw this scene which was relayed many times over by leading television companies, willing to depict our president in a new and unfamiliar light to us and the world.

I do not know how you saw it but I personally did not take to the president in the role of conductor. You would have thought that he had, as it were, confused the scene of the action. That he had, as it were, lagged behind the times, forgetting that the trip along the Volga was already over and that he was now on different shores—on the banks of the Rhine. Evidently that accounts for his overly relaxed manner somewhat characteristic of a vacation rather than work. The point is not that one was not conscious of professional suppleness in the gestures of his hands and positions of his body or that there was something the matter with the musical beat. It is the fact that the president put himself in such a position at all. I would say that he clearly lacked the self-critical awareness of a sober man. Although of course none of us thought that the president would conduct a band, never mind a German band, as skilfully as, you will remember, he played the spoons during his stay on Kizhi. Or that this role would suit him like, you will remember, the Buryat national dress. Nonetheless....

Regrettably, this is not the first time that there has been cause to talk about whether our supreme leaders' actions accord with their lofty status. You might think that, having abandoned many traditions of the past, the new authorities would nonetheless doggedly stick to some of them since they inherited in particular absolute license insofar as ethical norms are concerned.

You will remember that Khrushchev banged his shoe on the UN rostrum, as it were, hinting to everyone what a powerful country he represented and consequently that he was not obliged to do as anyone said. During a U.S. tour Brezhnev threw himself around the neck of a U.S. actor and hung there, delightedly lifting his feet. Now to add to these ranks we have a travesty of an appendix to an historic event.

Let me repeat the platitude: The president is not a private individual and does not represent himself alone, nor his own tastes and predilections alone. Each of his public appearances, every word he says, every movement he makes says a great deal not only about himself personally but also about you and I, about the political and cultural level of the new Russia. And primarily about his entourage and how capable it is of influencing the president, prompting, advising, and directing him. Or is he really so unpredictable that his form—not just his sporting form—is determined solely by whim? Hardly.

It must be pointed out that Yeltsin's entourage was well and truly represented in Germany. To the amazement of many attentive observers. Since it was at this time that the world heard how preoccupied the British parliament is with cutting spending on all manner of state ceremonies and official receptions. In particular, there are plans to drastically reduce such spending during our president's upcoming visit to London. So that it does palpably damage the state purse. But is spending limited to meet the cost of such grand visits by our statesmen to Germany for instance? When the television camera flitted over the faces of the guests at the Berlin celebrations, didn't too many familiar faces appear?

You get the impression that the effective elimination of a serious parliamentary opposition has given rise to a definite lack of control over the presidential structures' actions. There seems to have been a kind of decline in their self-control and critical view of themselves that could lend them greater circumspection and induce them to constantly take public opinion into consideration, which was in particular reflected in the latest election results.

Shakhray May Join Forces With Russia's Choice

MK0209121094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Maksim Sokolov: "Sergey Shakhray Agrees to a Coalition. Democrats Searching for a Single Candidate"]

[Text] Right-wing politicians have seriously embarked on a search for a mechanism to coordinate their actions, and the question of all questions proved to be the choice of a single candidate to run for president. During consultations it turned out that Shakhray's party, which has hitherto kept "Russia's Choice" at a fairly long distance, now might well become the most loyal partner of Gaydar's party.

Sergey Shakhray has made it clear that the leadership of the Party for Russian Unity and Accord [PRES] will consider Gaydar's idea of nominating a single democratic candidate for the next presidential elections, namely Boris Yeltsin. According to reports received by KOMMERSANT-DAILY, the PRES's formula is even more loyal—it has already passed a decision on supporting "Russia's Choice" and forming a bloc with it, and, seeing no other alternative, the party only wants to sell its support at the best possible price. It is expected that specific bargaining will begin in the near future.

Two incidents vividly illustrate the mood in Shakhray's party. A couple of weeks ago, while handing to Yegor Gaydar the certificate of registration for the Democratic Choice of Russia, Justice Minister Kalmykov, a PRES member, expressed his hope that the new party would become one of "Russia's two or three leading parties." Since one cannot do without the key left-wing parties, such as the Russian Federation Communist Party and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, either, Kalmykov effectively declared an alien party that is technically competing with his own party as a leader of the liberal spectrum. Moreover, the other day, predicting stepped-up attacks on the government, Deputy Prime Minister Shokhin, another PRES member, noted that Zyuganov and Yavlinskiy are scrambling to take over ministerial portfolios so as to ascribe the fruits of the emerging stabilization to themselves. In other words, those who have found themselves on the list of dangerous, unscrupulous politicians are a prominent economist and a prominent communist—but not Gaydar, even if Shokhin previously did not spare his criticism of his former colleague, whom he considered much worse than that same Yavlinskiy.

Changes in the PRES's stance are attributable to the fact that during the 11 months of going it alone the party has seen troubles with a vengeance. Its bet on the regions proved a disaster because in that area Shakhray was outdone by Vladimir Shumeyko with his new Nationalities Minister Yegorov. Moreover, the confrontation with "Russia's Choice" members proved impractical because with them gone, the PRES ministers found themselves on the far right and soon felt what it is like to have an exposed flank. Finally, Shakhray has apparently realized that his party has a modest support base and that the only realistic electoral option for his party is to be a "little brother," that is, a partner in a coalition. In this regard Shakhray differs considerably from Yavlinskiy, who, objectively being a similar "little brother," nonetheless consistently rules out any coalitions, seeing himself as a junior brother, a big brother, and everybody's brother. Somewhere between Shakhray and Yavlinskiy is Boris Fedorov, leader of the "Decembrists," who is acting the part of "Shakhray of yesterday," that is, one who has not yet been disillusioned with the delights of going it alone. Unlike Yavlinskiy, however, who is hopelessly in love with it, Fedorov has just recently embarked on a solo voyage. There is a possibility that Fedorov, too, could soon join the group of returning profligate brothers.

Democratic Russia Offers To Mediate Chechen Conflict

LD0609124194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Democratic Russia movement is ready to act as a mediator in resolving the crisis between Moscow and Groznyy. This is set out in an address from the movement to the president and government of Russia, circulated on Tuesday. It is suggested to the federal authorities that in particular they rule out the participation of Russian power structures in the Chechen conflict and that they begin talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev on peaceful resolution of the problems and on the status of the Chechen republic in the Russian Federation at the level of the Russian president or premier. The address calls on the Chechen people to find patience and courage to overcome the crisis. The document is signed by the Democratic Russia movement's co-chairs Galina Starovoytova and Lev Ponomarev.

RPR Favors Economic Blockade of Chechnya

LD0509171594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The Republican Party of Russia (RPR) is in favor of declaring an economic blockade against Chechnya, RPR leader Vladimir Lysenko said at a press conference on the results of the meeting of the RPR political council on September 3-4 in Moscow today.

The RPR political council said it believes that Russia must exercise tough customs control at its internal border with Chechnya in order to prevent arms deliveries to the republic.

Lysenko told Interfax that the RPR considers it necessary to close the Chechen border completely and to end the practically free supplies of electric power and other resources to Chechnya. Lysenko said he believes that those working for the regime of Dzhokhar Dudayev must be deprived of the right to travel abroad on the republic's passports.

At the same time, Lysenko said he believes that despite the moral support for the opposition, its victory will not mean stabilization of the situation and establishment of democracy in Chechnya. Lysenko did not rule out that those who will come to power after Dudayev's defeat could destabilize the situation in the republic even more. He added that power in the hands of Labazanov or Khasbulatov is unlikely to improve the situation in Chechnya. Lysenko said he believes that the most reasonable tactics for the opposition is to seek gradual victories without rushing, because the "opposition has obviously overestimated its capability, in expecting total support."

Lysenko said he believes that if Russia interferes with the situation in Chechnya the opposition will disappear due to the "national syndrome" and all guilt will be laid at Russia's door.

FCS Spokesman Warns of Chechen 'Terrorism'

LD0609093694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Sep—Federal Counterintelligence Service chiefs have petitioned Russia's general procuracy to start criminal proceedings in connection with the mass murders carried out on the territory of the Chechen Republic, Aleksandr Mikhailov, head of the public relations department of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, said at a briefing today.

He said the Federal Counterintelligence Service regards the Chechen Republic as part of the Russian Federation and as a real threat to Russia in terms of the spread of terrorism.

Chernomyrdin Thanks Jews for Contributions

LD0509202494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has wished all citizens of Jewish nationality a happy new year. It will be marked, according to the lunar calendar, on the night of 5 September. Celebrations will be held for two days. The Russian prime minister noted a worthy contribution by the Jewish people to the development of the country's science, culture, and defense, and said he was certain that along with other nations it [the Jewish people] will do its best to promote the rebirth of a new democratic Russia.

Central Bank May Sue Borovoy Over Bribery Remark

MM0609085794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Central Bank Intends To Defend Itself Against Borovoy in Court"]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia Press Service has circulated a statement in connection with statements made by Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Economic Freedom Party. Quoting a number of newspapers, it cites Borovoy's words at a press conference given by the "Tibet" concern where he claimed that a bribe of 2 billion rubles is required in order to obtain Central Bank licenses. If Borovoy fails to substantiate his claim or does not apologize publicly, the press service announcement says, the Bank of Russia will file the appropriate charges.

Energy Ministry Plans Armed Antisabotage Squads

MM0509100794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2-5 Sep 94 p 6

[Report by Vladimir Zaynetdinov: "A Special Unit For Every Stove"]

[Text] In the light of the implementation of the Federal Program To Step up the Fight Against Crime and in order to carry out the president's 24 May 1994 edict "On Urgent Measures To Implement..." the program, the Ministry of Fuel and Energy fire safety and armed security administration has come up with a plan which envisages, in particular:

"Setting up in the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry departmental armed security structure subunits to combat sabotage groups and equipping them with modern means of detection and modern weapons"—this is the first thing that catches the eye in section two of the document.

What it means essentially is the creation of yet another type of special unit, similar (at least, that is what the Fuel and Energy Ministry internal security administration wants) to the celebrated "Alfa" or the Internal Affairs Ministry's "Vityaz." The immediate question is: What about the legislation? In fact, up until now the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Internal Affairs Ministry have been in charge of the fight against saboteurs and terrorists.

Yuriy Borisov, acting chief of the internal security administration, who signed the document, said that they plan to create one special subunit per major facility. Each subunit will comprise around 15 men, including an obligatory marksman.

Finally, let us gladden the hearts of owners of private and nonstate fuel and energy complex enterprises. Under the same plan the Fuel and Energy Ministry plans to take over security at absolutely all fuel and energy complex facilities IRRESPECTIVE OF FORM OF OWNERSHIP.

P.S. The "plan of measures" has already been approved by first deputy fuel and energy minister Vladimir Kostyunin.

Yeltsin Sends Message to Ecology Conference

LD0609094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 6 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin expressed hope that the international congress "Water: Ecology and Technology" which will open in Moscow on Tuesday, will be an important stage in the joint work of various countries to protect natural waters. Representatives from 50 states expressed their desire to participate in the forum.

"Deterioration of the ecological situation in any part of the world has a negative influence on vast regions and environment in the present era of global interdependence of humanity," the Russian president writes.

"This determines attention caused by your water-ecological congress among specialists in many countries, politicians, international organisations and the public," Yeltsin stresses.

Lebed Interviewed on Political Ambitions

MS0609101894 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 6 Sep 94 p 3

[Report incorporating interview with General Lebed, by Chrystia Freeland: "General Awaits Call of Destiny"; in Tiraspol, date not given]

[Text] In a Russia which is desperately short of heroes, General Aleksandr Lebed's popularity is on the rise. Commander of the 14th Army in the Transdniestr enclave, the tall, broad-shouldered, blue-eyed officer appeals to Russians looking for an alternative to the discredited communist bosses of their past and the uncertain, sometimes blundering democratic leaders of the present.

At Gen. Lebed's headquarters in Tiraspol, the impoverished capital city of the Transdniestr Republic which broke away from Moldova three years ago, hero-worship is strong. As they sweep invisible dust off the driveway, the immaculately uniformed young soldiers of the 14th Army cannot find enough superlatives to describe their "comrade leader": He is "as intelligent as Albert Einstein and as strong as Arnold Schwarzenegger", "a second Suvorov, a second Kutuzov" (two of Tsarist Russia's greatest military leaders), "in all ways a remarkable man".

The past few weeks have demonstrated that Gen. Lebed's writ runs beyond Tiraspol. The Kremlin has felt uneasy about Russia's most popular officer since this spring, when Gen. Lebed told a Russian newspaper that his country needed a man like Pinochet, the Chilean military dictator, and described the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, as "a minus". However, when Russia's top brass—which is losing its grip over regional commanders throughout the former Soviet Union—took on the outspoken general in August, trying three times to oust him, Gen. Lebed won. Adoring Russians responded last week by electing Gen. Lebed to the "Olympus" of Russia's 100 most popular politicians, a list compiled monthly by the pollsters at Nezavisimaya Gazeta, one of Moscow's top daily newspapers.

Ranked as the nation's 13th most popular leader, Gen. Lebed drew more support than better know hard-liners such as Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the new-fascist politician, and out-scored Mr. Yegor Gaydar, the standard bearer of market reforms.

But while, in the public eye, Gen. Lebed appears to be rapidly growing into a leader of national stature, he is careful not to express open political ambitions.

"In these times of troubles, I cannot rule out anything," is Gen. Lebed's careful answer to the question of whether he will one day be the leader of all Russia. "But I will do anything my country requires. I have served my country in foreign wars and civil wars. Whatever my country needs, I am not afraid to do."

On the topic of what it is that his country needs, Gen. Lebed is more forthcoming. "What's wrong with a military dictator?" the general asks, recrossing long legs clad in camouflage fatigues which look freshly pressed even late in the evening and enormous black boots gleaming with polish. "In all of its history, Russia has prospered under the strictest control. Consider Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great or Stalin."

Gen. Lebed's critique of Russian democracy is delivered with the calm assurance of a battle-tested officer and the smooth charm of a gentleman.

"What our country is trying to do now is completely impossible," Gen. Lebed explains, offering imported Danish biscuits and rising to prepare coffee. His intense gaze helps to explain his soldiers' slavish devotion, but does not detract from the toughness of his message. "Our leaders have said, 'for centuries our state has been totalitarian but staring this minute we will be a democratic state'. This is just not possible. After all, we are still Soviet people."

Gen. Lebed is also convinced—and many sophisticated political observers would say he is right—that the democratic order Russian leaders have struggled to build at such great cost is a matter of absolute indifference to most Russians: "Most Russians don't care whether they are ruled by fascists, or communists or even Martians as long as they are able to buy six kinds of sausage in the stores and lots of cheap vodka."

Although Gen. Lebed shares some of the hard-liners' preoccupation with Russia's lost power—he speaks sadly of Russia, with "our proud history", now reduced to blindly following recipes "dreamed up in Arkansas "—he is no neo-imperialist.

He says he refused an offer to become the minister of defence in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan because "why should I help one group of Tajiks kill another?"

This sober realisation that Russia's greatness cannot be recaptured through force of arms in foreign countries is only one way in which Gen. Lebed differs from Russia's civilian hard-liners, whom he dismisses as "dangerous populist fanatics".

As a decorated Afghan veteran he embodies a military order leaders like Mr. Zhirinovskiy can only describe, and as a central figure in the defeat of the 1991 hard-line coup, democratic politicians cannot accuse Gen. Lebed of undue sympathy for the old, vanquished regime.

But, for all his insistence that order and discipline are the keys to Russia's renewal and his coy disavowal of any overt political role, Gen. Lebed has a rather idiosyncratic notion of the command structure to which he is subordinate.

"I have never served Tsars, or Commissars or Presidents," Gen. Lebed says. "They are mortal men and they come and go, I serve only the Russian state, and the Russian people, which are eternal."

Abdulatipov Favors Joint Elections in 1996

LD0309180994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament's Federation Council, has backed the idea of holding simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections on 12 June 1996. As Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the lower house, said on Friday, this idea is currently being studied in the State Duma. Talking to an RIA correspondent, Ramazan Abdulatipov voiced the opinion that holding the elections simultaneously would be a money-saving move, and, above all, would reduce to a minimum the potential for confrontation in society. Abdulatipov recalled, however, that at one time President Boris Yeltsin voiced opposition to the idea of simultaneous elections, which would, in the president's view, mean that the country would effectively be left without leadership. It is wholly possibly that this argument will be heard again, Ramazan Abdulatipov commented.

Zhirinovskiy Unlikely To Lose Parliamentary Mandate

LD0209182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) Aleksandr Ivanchenko has doubts that LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's parliamentary mandate can be withdrawn following a legal suit by his rival Oleg Novikov who was defeated in last December's general election.

In an interview with Interfax on Friday, Ivanchenko said the CEC was still working on a new election bill which also tackles the question of responsibility for vote-rigging.

He said that the courts would find it hard to pass a ruling on charges of electoral fraud until the new law came into force. Any trial now can only help Zhirinovskiy score political points ahead of the next election, Ivanchenko said.

In a recent ruling, Russia's Supreme Court has ordered the Moscow regional court to resume hearings into Novikov's claim of vote-rigging in the Shelkovskiy constituency after sustaining defeat from Zhirinovskiy.

Although he won the case in a first instance court, the ruling was upturned by the panel of judges of the Moscow regional court's civil division on March 18 on the grounds that any claim of vote-rigging was outside court jurisdiction.

Zaveryukha Criticizes Lapshin Statement

MM0209105194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Split in Agrarian Lobby"]

[Text] "Russia's agrarians need a centrist party," Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who is in charge of the country's agrarian complex, has stated. He made this statement in connection with the exacerbation of contradictions within the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] leadership. As he put it, APR leader Mikhail Lapshin has discredited the peasant movement through his clearly ill-considered and arrogant statements—made during the 25 August all-Russia agricultural rally—that the APR intends and is prepared to take power in the country into its own hands. "This is just Mr. Lapshin's personal position, it does not in any way chime in with APR tactics," Aleksandr Zaveryukha noted.

The vice premier believes that, by taking this position, Mikhail Lapshin is pushing society toward confrontation and therefore hardly has the moral right to head the party. "Lots of agrarians, party members, and front-ranking rural working people disagree with Mikhail Lapshin's platform," A. Zaveryukha stressed, without ruling out the possibility of a split within the APR.

Terekhov Investigation Continues Despite Amnesty

LD0609082794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0341 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Sep—Despite the fact that in accordance with the State Duma's amnesty resolution, the criminal investigation of Officers' Union Chairman Stanislav Terekhov has been halted, the chief military procuracy is continuing its investigation into the circumstances of the 23 September 1993 attack on the headquarters of the CIS joint armed forces by an armed group, headed by S. Terekhov.

ITAR-TASS was told this by a spokesman for the Russian chief military procuracy.

According to him, in accordance with Russian legislative requirements for a thorough, complete, and effective investigation of the crimes in the case of the attack on the CIS joint armed forces headquarters, the search is continuing for people who captured and continue to illegally hide weapons, and it is being established who carried out the murder of militia captain Sviridenko and citizen Malysheva.

Opposition Outlines Protest Plans

LD0509200894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1854 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—Russia's opposition, which has formed an integrated organising committee of "Patriotic Forces", on Monday laid out to a news conference its programme of political actions.

Rallies and marches have been planned for September 21 and October 3. A conference on "lessons of October 1993" is scheduled for September 22.

Reporters were also told that the opposition plans to stage pickets near Moscow's Krasnopresnenskiy stadium, at Barrikadnaya Metro and the Foreign Ministry in Smolenskaya Square in the period between 25 and October 4.

The news conference was told that defenders of Moscow's White House are to meet in a rally on October 2. The opposition also intends to make a "live circle" around the government building on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment early in October 4.

Explosion in Central Moscow; No Casualties

LD0509103094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] There was an explosion in Kudrinskaya Square in the center of Moscow at 0530 today. It was caused by an unidentified explosive device placed under the shop window of the Delta MTI trading enterprise. The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned at the press center of Moscow's interior directorate that there were no casualties. An investigation is in progress.

Media Issues

Press Committee Chairman's Performance Questioned

MM0609081794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Goncharov: "Residence on Strastnyy Bulvar Is Long Way From White House"]

[Text] The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Editorial Office informs its readers that Russian Press Committee Chairman Boris Mironov is not a member of the cabinet of ministers and is not authorized to speak on behalf of the Russian Government.

The provocative comments by Sector Committee Chairman Mironov provided grounds for saying that there are fascists in the government. We will take the liberty of disagreeing with this. Because, under the law, a sector committee chairman who does not have state status is not a member of the government. He merely heads a committee which falls into the category of "other federal organs of the executive branch" and which has the same status as, for instance, the committees for fisheries, for patents, for standards....

But the committee headed by Mironov, who showed himself to be a fascist, is nonetheless special among these. It is the Committee for the Press. It must be said that in our country the government has never had a department in its structure dealing with the mass media. In the Soviet period this was simply pointless, since the press and television were completely controlled by the CPSU Central Committee Agitation and Propaganda Department.

Ideology was clearly separated from technology, which was controlled by the State Committee for the Press.

It was only after the CPSU's collapse that there appeared in the RSFSR Government a structure which was supposed to unite democratic ideology and technology and facilitate the establishment of a new Russian press system as an alternative to the Union system. Such a system was formed. The new department's boss had the rank of minister and then even that of vice premier.

But now the Press Committee's status is different: Its chairman, as we have already stressed, is not even a member of the government. The fact that Mironov calls himself "minister" is no more than an exaggeration made for political clout, so to speak.

But it is not even a matter of legal niceties. A chief must deal with his sector's affairs. But what is Mironov doing? He is trying to make up for his inferior status not with specific deeds aimed at helping the Russian press but with ideological statements. Passionate speeches about the Russian idea are now coming from the residence on Strastnyy Bulvar, where the Committee for the Press is located.

Until recently Mironov was still talking about pluralism and was still assiduously disavowing the role of mouthpiece of leading ideas, stressing that he was expressing exclusively his personal views. But after his latest frank comments there is no doubt that this was a sham. From the outset Mironov and the people who made him chairman of the Committee for the Press intended to use this maneuver to seize the initiative from the national patriotic opposition and to "tame" its ideas by means of statifying them, so to speak. A foolish and vain move, because for a fair game these ideas should first have been purged of at least the extreme wordings verging on fascism and racism. And the player's choice did prove unsuccessful. Mironov clearly overdid it. Not only is he not trying to, but he does not even consider it necessary to leave his views outside his office. Based on his convictions the chairman of the Committee for the Press is performing official actions in the name of the state—

he is allocating resources and pursuing a quite specific cadre policy. And he has the effrontery to identify his will with the state's.

Like any person Mironov can, of course, have his own ideological position, certain philosophical views, and literary predilections. But other ideas are expected from Press Committee Chairman Mironov above all—ideas about how to save dying publications, how to teach them to operate in the market. He could have proposed an economic mechanism making it possible to avoid a system of declining subsidies, found a formula for the participation of editorial office collectives in privatization, devised a flotation scheme, found a way of uniting the interests of editorial offices and print shops, and worked out and lobbied hard for tax and other financial benefits for newspapers and journals.

But the committee is apparently doing nothing of the kind. Its chairman is busy with his lofty ideological strivings, at a time when newspaper workers are looking for the means for their existence.

Allocating subsidies is a simple matter, the committee merely plays the role of a "rectum" here. A cumbersome apparatus is not needed for this, all that is needed is one official in the Finance Ministry. But one person, even if he is a member of the Writers Union, like Mironov, is clearly insufficient to elaborate state ideology. The Committee for the Press has not authorized anyone to do this.

Maybe Boris Sergeyevich Mironov made it as a writer and philosopher, as a steadfast fighter for the Russian idea, but he clearly did not make it as chairman of a sector committee under the government. He undoubtedly has a clear ideological program. But the modern Russian press, which has irreversibly left the control of totalitarian ideology, needs a specific economic program. Mironov does not have one. The Committee for the Press does not have one. In that case is such a chairman needed?

Yes, it is very hard being a "minister" without portfolio. There is nowhere to put down one's ideological baggage. That is why, not having a full-blooded "portfolio," the minister is trying to foist his voluminous ideological baggage onto what are in his view provincial newspaper workers who have not been seduced and corrupted by the center. But the chairman does not realize that journalists will never agree to the role of underlings and will not pick up somebody else's ideological baggage for 30 pieces of silver as readily as porters at Kazan railroad station.

Reaction to Press Chief Mironov's Ouster

Mironov Gives News Conference

LD0509212094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The unexpected resignation of Boris Mironov, chairman of the Press Committee, is still at the center of journalists' attention. Mironov believes himself to be a victim of harassment on ideological grounds—for dissent.

[A. Kondulukov report over video showing Mironov giving news conference in a room packed with journalists] Boris Mironov who was sacked on 2 September from the post of chairman of the State Press Committee spoke to journalists today. He told them about his views on the Russian national idea and on the reasons for his sacking. What is much more intriguing is who brought Mironov to power.

[Mironov] I cannot answer this question because I do not know whether this might compromise the person in question. If he wants to come out himself, then he will. But I can say unequivocally, he is not Poltoranin.

[Kondulukov] According to the Mironov, this does not really matter. He has never tried to conceal his views, and all of the country's leaders knew what he was to bring to the post of the press chief.

[Mironov] I never tried to conceal from anybody what I wanted to achieve in that post. And nobody tried to prevent me until the very last moment. I never heard a single reproach from the government that I was doing anything wrong or that I was supporting wrong publications.

[Kondulukov] Mironov did not confirm whether the whole of the government patronized Mironov or whether he just had one high-ranking patron. One thing is clear even now: What brought him down was not speaking his mind but the attempts to introduce a new state ideology.

Blames Ouster on President's Entourage

MM0609133794 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 1

[Statement by Boris Mironov, former chairman of Russian Federation Press Committee, dated 5 September 1994, under the "To the RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA Editorial Office" rubric: "Statement on My Resignation"]

[Text] Russia was and remains a great power whose revival and return to the place which it used to hold in the world are feared by other countries which have proclaimed themselves the ruling "seven."

It is not the economic crisis or the political crisis that is preventing Russia from drawing itself up to its full height but, above all, the spiritual crisis, which has worn down the people's faith in themselves. Without a national patriotic upsurge Russians cannot take heart and revive within themselves their former spirit of certainty, calm, and pride in the nation.

In Russia, however, ideas of Russian nationalism and patriotism are still being banished and strictly eradicated. I testify to this as former chairman of the Russian Federation Press Committee. Following the publication in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA of my ideological program article "Russia Craves an Ideal," the so-called democrats, democratic newspapers, and the president's closest aides launched a hysterical campaign of persecution, accusing me of nationalism, anti-Semitism, antidemocratism, and Bolshevism. Furious hatred was aroused by the state book publishing program which I was implementing and which was aimed at the spiritual rebirth of the Russian nation. During this time a complete collection of the works of Gogol was published in Russia for the first time, publication of the complete works of Pushkin was begun, and Russia's best minds and spiritual teachers are being published for the first time—Pobedonostsev, Ilin, Shulgin, Rozanov....

The sacred concepts of nationalism and patriotism, without which Russia cannot take heart or straighten its stooping shoulders, are very cunningly and satanically shrewdly being replaced by the concept of fascism, which is genetically hateful to every Russian. Seeking my resignation, they make me, the son of front-line soldiers who fought against fascism, into a "fascist."

Who needs all this, whom does it benefit? Those who do not need or benefit from calm and from the revival of a strong and self-confident Russia, who need discord in the state in order to spiritually deafen and blind Russian people by deliberately mixing up truth and falsehood, honor and dishonor, and faith and hypocrisy, in order to create confusion, perplexity, and helplessness in their souls, and in order to crush people who have been enfeebled and deprived of their will in pursuit of their own ambitious and far from Russian interests—interests alien to Russia. The most dangerous thing is that such aims are pursued by the president's closest entourage, which long sought and finally secured my resignation.

The president is free to choose with whom to work. Only my resignation was determined not by professional and human qualities but by ideological considerations. The president did not want to accept my national, patriotic program for Russia's spiritual revival. But I continue to insist that Russia is possible only as a national state. Russia must finally return to national self-assertion and self-reliance. For 75 years we were treated as though we were entirely devoid of national dignity, national spirit, and national instinct. National blindness, deafness, and dumbness are continuing to be inculcated in Russians even today.

Not to understand what is fundamental in Russia and in Russians—national predominance—means not knowing at all, not understanding, not feeling, not sympathizing with Russia. If the president has not yet understood this, I do not pity him, I pity Russia, which entrusted power to him.

[Signed] Boris Mironov

[Dated] 5 September 1994

Kostikov: Public Demanded Ouster

LD0209175394 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] [Announcer] Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, gathered journalists in the Kremlin today for his comment on Boris Yeltsin's decree on removing Boris Mironov from his post as chairman of Russia's State Committee for Press. Kostikov said Yeltsin's actions have a symbolic meaning and signify the beginning of a new political year. The president has heard the voice of the people, said Kostikov.

[Begin Kostikov recording] The Russian public demanded that Russian politics should be rid of this gentleman. I am very happy to comment on this, in that we live in such times when both the government and the president listen to the voice of the public. I must say that this is a major achievement of the democratic public and the democratic press. [end recording]

[Announcer] Asked why the president had put up with Mr. Mironov and his statements before, Kostikov said the negative evolution of the committee chairman has become obvious only recently. Also, the president did not want to jump the gun; he was monitoring Mironov's actions for some time. The shoe dropped after Mironov's recent chauvinistic statements and the chairman was sacked. There is no information about who will be appointed to the post yet.

Poltoranin Views Mironov Dismissal

LD0509104594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—Boris Mironov, who was removed from the post of chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Press by the presidential decree of September 2, told ITAR-TASS on Monday that he lost the post "not because of professional or personal qualities, but because of ideology". Stating this, Mironov did not deem it necessary to set out his views on the subject of state support for the media.

Mironov said his dismissal suits the forces that "do not want Russia's revival but want to supress people out of ambitions that are far removed from Russian interests". Mironov's statement, just as his previous pronouncements, is embued with the idea that "Russia can exist only as a national state", and only as a purely Russian state at that. He lost sight of the fact that people of 150 ethnic groups live on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Mironov is described as a creature of Mikhail Poltoranin. In his turn, Poltoranin, head of the State Duma's Committee for the Information Policy and Communications, told ITAR-TASS that chief of Russian Television

Oleg Poptsov, Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov and Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Press Sergey Gryzunov are his creatures, too.

Poltoranin believes Mironov's dismissal cannot cast a slur on him. "We select for state posts individuals, not tin solders", he said. Poltoranin said Mironov's only weakness was that he lacked political experience, and because of this he "got carried away". Still, the head of the State Duma's committee believes "Mironov has done much more toward the downfall of the totalitarian regime than those who bait him now".

Poltoranin believes his name is linked to the dismissal of the chairman of the Committee for the Press in order to set him at loggerheads with the president. Poltoranin said he is going to frustrate these attempts with the use of amendments to the Russian code of criminal procedure. After the code is endorsed by the parliement, journalists will be held responsible for slander.

'Itogi' Cites Poltoranin on Media Shakeup

LD0409213394

[Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1700 GMT on 4 September 1994, on the "Itogi" program hosted by Yevgeniy Kiselev, carries a 6-minute report on "the big contest" now under way for the post of chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Press, from which Boris Mironov was recently sacked. Kiselev states that a plan is under way to merge the committee with federal television and radio. "It is not ruled out that Poltoranin [former head of the Russian Federal Information Agency] is among the main candidates for the post of head of the new department," Kisilev says.

Kiselev then refers to an interview that Poltoranin granted to the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-AM', in which, according to Kiselev, he makes the following remarks: "There is a Zionist lobby in Russia. Its representatives have occupied important posts in the president's entourage and are trying to isolate him from the people and get control of the mass media. Even the Vesti bureau in Jerusalem is paid for by the Israeli Government."

Poltoranin has denied making these statements, Kisilev adds, but Kisilev displays the article for the camera. He goes on to quote Poltoranin's alleged comments on the new law on the mass media: "According to this law, all the news bodies competing with each other for control of this sphere—most of which now form the heart of the Zionist lobby—are to be abolished. A unified federal consultative center is also to be set up to control television and radio news, which should be subordinated to the state. The opinion has formed in parliament, which the president agrees with in principle, that I should head this center. This way, everything will be put in its place and this feverish activity wil be banned. Russia will not let itself be turned into occupied territory."

Poltoranin's comments to the paper about Boris Yeltsin are then quoted: "Yeltsin's illness is no secret. He has been suffering from acute inflammation of the cerebral vessels [ostroye vospaleniye sosudov golovnovo mozga] for many years now and is always complaining about not feeling well. Of course, the illness will get worse with years; but I do not think that the president's state of health is hopeless, although it does affect how active he is, to some degree.

"But the most dangerous thing is that the president is following the advice of people who are out for themselves, and his isolation from the people is a result of the fact that his entourage is not giving him the correct information about what is happening in the country."

Poltoranin Accuses Itogi Host of Libel

LD0509062694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0607 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the State Duma Committee on Information Policy and Communications, has issued a warning to Yevgeniy Kiselev, host of the analytical TV programme Itogi that he would put an end to arbitrariness in the Kiselev-hosted programme by means of amendments to the criminal procedure code of the Russian Federation. After the parliament passes the amendments, journalists will be prosecuted for libel, Poltoranin told ITAR-TASS.

Poltoranin accused Kiselev for a footage in the Itogi programme on Sunday, September 4. The host of the programme read out a translation of Poltoranin's interview given to the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y in March this year.

According to Kiselev, Poltoranin said in the interview that the state intended to establish rigid control over Russian news media with the aid of a consultative committee, the setting up of which had already been ostensibly approved by the president of Russia.

Immediately after the Itogi programme ended, Poltoranin told ITAR-TASS that Kiselev had used an inaccurate translation of his interview.

"This was an English translation done from Arabic with the aid of the USIA. The meaning of my remarks had been utterly distorted," the State Duma committee chief pointed out.

Poltoranin said he had already refuted this widely circulated translation in an interview with JOURNALIST magazine. Poltoranin said he had not discussed with Boris Yeltsin the idea of establishing a consultative press control centre.

"There is no need for that, because a federal council, consisting of representative from all branches of power, will be set up following the adoption of a law on television and radio broadcasting in Russia. Besides, under the provisions of a future law on state support for news media, we shall establish a fund for economic support to the press in order to realise our only goal—to seek the democratisation of the press," Poltoranin said.

In the opinion of Poltoranin, the sally against him was made in view of the dismissal of Boris Mironov from the post of the chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press. Poltoranin pointed out that he had no bearing on Mironov's appointment to the post.

At the same time, the State Duma committee chief associates the airing of the Sunday footage by the NTV with the fact that "Kiselev and the ilk" fear his comeback to the post of the minister for the press. "But I do not need this post," Poltoranin said.

New Mass Media Body To Be 'Propaganda Structure'

LD0509213794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[G. Fadeyeva report; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Yet another scandal over the media is gathering strength. Today the head of the State Duma Committee for Information and Communications [Mikhail Poltoranin] has made a statement that he intends to sue Yevgeniy Kiselev, moderator of the television program "Itogi." The committee head said that just a few formalities are left to sort out before a new state fund is created for support of the mass media.

Sergey Gryzunov, deputy chairman of the press committee, said this would be a fresh agitation and propaganda structure. Its purpose will be to establish tight control over the Russian media. Gryzunov took part in today's news conference entitled: Does freedom of speech need protection? According to the participants of the news conference, this is not a rhetorical question:

[Begin Gryzunov recording] The main principle of a democratic society—the principle of freedom of speech—is being tested. The attitude of the authorities as well as our own attitude will probably determine not only the outcome of any individual incident, but how our state will live tomorrow. The press committee was as of tomorrow supposed to cease being a controlling and licensing organ and to become an establishment that services the press. The subsidizing of all publications must cease, except for small local and regional newspapers. [end recording]

And finally, the participants of the news conference could not answer the question: Who is Mironov's successor? A certain Vladimirov. His first deputy used to be head of Poltoranin's secretariat.

Attacks on Newsmen, Media Freedoms Said To Increase

LD0609085694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow September 6 TASS—Last August was marked on the territory of the former USSR by a considerable growth of the number of attempts on the lives of journalists and infringements upon the freedom of speech. According to information released by the fund in behalf of glasnost, three journalists were killed this August and five others were attacked. Moreover, there were many cases of persecutions launched by governing bodies against journalists. August was the "blackest" month of this year for CIS pressmen.

Oleg Pamfilov, expert of the fund, said that most of these tragic reports were received from Tajikistan and the Belarus Republic. The body of Etibor Elmurodova, a Tajik TV commentator, was found early this August in the Kofarnikhon river. Later in the month, TV journalist Davlatali Rakhmonaliyev was murdered by three point-blank shots in the doorway of the house where he lived. Editor of the Minsk commercial newspaper "TOUR-INFO" Anatoliy Gulyi was robbed and killed at the end of the month in his own flat. According to Oleg Pamfilov, the fund knew nothing about the reasons behind all these attempts on the lives of journalists.

Russia was no exception in his respect. Assistant editor of the newspaper "URALSKIY RABOCHYY" (Yekaterinburg), was repeatedly threatened for his publications. Correspondent of the newspaper "MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS" Yevgeniy Karamyan, journalist of the INTERFAX news agency Aleksey Vorobyov, and prominent human rights advocate, editor-in-chief of the magazine "GLASNOST" Sergey Grigoryants were attacked in Moscow. Photoreporter of the newspaper "SEGODNYA" Andrey Zamakin was mistreated by militiamen. The August record of such events includes the ban imposed by the "Ostankino" TV leadership on the interview with Azeri ex-president Ayaz Mutalibov, which was to be telecast in the "Politburo" programme.

Pamfilov explained that the fund in behalf of glasnost, which is a public organisation, was not intended to investigate such cases. It merely collects information on attacks upon journalists and on cases of their persecution to draw the attention of public circles and law enforcement bodies to such facts.

Chernomyrdin Opposes Cuts in Media Advertising

LD0609134194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] [Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin did not support the proposal that there should be a drastic cut in the volume of advertisements permitted in the mass media. The head of government believes that first and foremost it is necessary to ensure that commercials are of a high quality and conscientiously made. An article may appear in the Criminal Code on responsibility for improper advertisements and for evasion of the law on advertising.

Economic Issues

Fuel is 'Top Priority' of Presidential Programs

LD0509193694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Development of the fuel and energy industries is a top priority in the presidential programs, Nikolay Malyshev, head of the center of presidential programs in the Russian president's headquarters, told Interfax Monday.

He said that the government would not encourage direct sales of crude and gas but had to step up the production of oil which had dropped to one half of the 1985 output and to work for thorough processing of oil.

Malyshev said that, strange as it might seem, the home country of Mendeleyev, Butlerov and numerous other famous chemists did not manufacture high quality plastics. He added that Russia owned rivers of oil and more gas than any other country but could not process them properly.

Malyshev complained that Russia was the sole country which sold unprocessed crude. But while a tonne of oil sells for $110 to $120 on the world market, a tonne of gasoline costs $900.

He said that he did not object to foreign companies such as Mobil Oil, Shell or British Petroleum which thoroughly process oil operating on the Russian domestic market. He said it was important that Russia had its fair share rather than produce crude.

In Malyshev's view, the equipment of the industry is extremely worn out. He added that all the factories that manufactured drilling equipment and serviced it are in Azerbaijan but Baku is not interested in supplying Russia with that equipment.

Malyshev said that the president had agreed to the setting up of a Kompomash company which would manufacture oil producing and gas processing equipment. It would incorporate numerous aerospace factories.

IMF Mission To Discuss 'Stand-By' Credit

LD0509171194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] An IMF working mission will arrive in Moscow on Wednesday after preliminary talks to prepare an agreement on granting Moscow a stand-by credit, Interfax was told by Deputy Russian Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin. He said the mission will continue working in Moscow in mid-October, as planned, after the end of the annual IMF assembly in Madrid on October 3-4.

"Things will clear up by the end of October on the credit and many other issues associated with the stand-by credit. For example, we will be able to start a new round of talks with the Paris Club," said Shokhin.

According to earlier statements of the IMF leaders, the question on granting a new credit to Russia (this year Moscow has already received an IMF credit of $1.5 billion) will depend on the progress achieved by the country in promoting economic reforms. In addition, to receiving the credit, which is to amount to $4 billion, Moscow is to assume some new commitments. By concluding a new agreement with the IMF, Moscow may expect to be granted a long-term deferment in paying its foreign debt.

The statement about Russia's economic policy, prepared for the International Monetary Fund last spring, envisages a decrease in the inflation rate by 7 percent by the end of the year. Meanwhile, in June price growth in Russia did not exceed 5 percent and in August it fell to 4 percent.

Russia To Import 6 Million Tonnes of Grain in '94

LD0209144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Russia will import this year six million tonnes of grain, a spokesman for the Russian Ministry of Agriculture and Food told BUSINESS-TASS.

Russia has been reducing the production and import of grain over the past several years. The 1992 crop was 106.8 million tonnes, in 1993 it went down to 99.1 million, and this year it is expected to be about 90 million. Grain imports are being reduced even more quickly. In 1992 Russia imported about 30 million tonnes, and in 1993—11 million.

According to specialists from the ministry, despite the reduction of imports, the situation with grain supply in the country continues to be normal. They believe that it is Russian and not American or Canadian grain producers, who should be supported through purchasing grain from them. Then Russian farmers will be able to buy grain harvesters, seeders and other farm machinery they need. This is why the ministry's specialists call into question even the need for purchasing one million tonnes of barley out of the planned six- million-tonne imports. In their opinion, Russia has enough barley of its own.

They maintain that grain imports lead to the growth of the retail prices of bread. One tonne of foreign grain, purchased in the first half of 1994 and delivered to Russian ports, cost 170 dollars, on the average, which makes 366,000 roubles according to the current exchange rate. At the same time, grain, produced in Russia, was purchased in the first half of the current year at the price of only 72,000 roubles per tonne.

However, Russia cannot stop grain imports altogether. The railway transportation of grain from the central regions of Russia to the Far East, for example, is more expensive than gain deliveries from Canada, the U.S. or Argentina by sea. This should be done within reasonable limits, without repeating the mistakes of 1992 and the previous years, when the amount of imported grain exceeded the country's needs.

Dubinin Denies Far North Supplies Underfunded

MM0609090394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by unnamed correspondent under general heading: "Snow Already Falling in the North but There Is an Indian Summer in the Ministry of Finances"]

[Text] In an interview with a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, Acting Minister of Finances Sergey Dubinin stated that he does not know what guided Sergey Shakhray when he made a sharply worded statement about him. "I believe that we have established normal working contacts with the Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy with regard to supplies for the North. If we are speaking of the progress of financing for this measure then I must note that we have earmarked more funds than were earmarked by the same date last year. We have already made 75 percent of all expenditure," S. Dubinin noted. Here he added that the leaders of the Northern territories still have the money issued from the budget in 1993 in the form of returnable credit resources. Of 2 trillion rubles [R], R1.7 trillion have not been returned to the treasury and are still working for the region. In the first half of the year targeted credit was earmarked for supplies for the North by the Central Bank. And that was a further R1 trillion. Some R156 billion of federal taxes were also paid into Yakutia's budget.

The head of Russia's finances department is particularly alarmed by the irrational use of budget funds by the commission for the northern regions. Instead of setting up priority financing for the delivery of food and fuel to Chukotka and North Yakutia, where navigation will soon cease, the money was spread equally throughout all the territories. And now that the situation has become close to critical they have suddenly sounded the alarm, demanding additional funds.

In S. Dubinin's opinion, this approach toward the solution of the problem is inherent not only in Shakhray's department but also in many others. "A project which should receive priority financing for some reason does not get the money and later when everything is exploding there they begin to shout about a catastrophe caused with the connivance of the Ministry of Finances in the hope of literally beating further funds out of the government," the minister stated.

Among those particularly adept at arm-twisting S. Dubinin cited the "Rosugol" company, which is expert at driving the solution of the problem into a corner and setting an ultimatum for the government.

As for the demand for his resignation, this was S. Dubinin's response: "I am dismissed regularly every three weeks. I have already managed to become accustomed to it."

Soskovets Against Price Freezing To Solve Non-Payments

LD0509183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1653 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The state cannot try to resolve the issue of non-payments by freezing prices since this would lead nowhere, Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets said at a meeting of the Russian government on improving the payments and settling system today.

Soskovets said the distorted pricing system which was forcing some enterprises to stand idle could not be tolerated. He said mutual debts would continue to grow. "Non-payments are not a one-day problem," he said. Soskovets expressed particular concern at the time taken for government funds to go through commercial banks.

Soskovets said that many agricultural enterprises had not yet received funds given by the government for sowing. He said the non-payments issue would never be resolved if demands for money for solving local problems by enterprises were always met. Soskovets added that there was also a criminal aspect to the non-payments problem since "many firms offer middle-man services to enterprises, take production but do not pay money for it."

Adviser Favors Intervention To Fix Corporate Debt

LD0609090194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 6 TASS—The main cause of the corporate debt problem in Russia is the "legalized immoral entrepreneurship", according to Aleksandr Livshits, head of the Russian president's group of experts.

Livshits said in an interview with ITAR-TASS that "the scale of the phenomenon is not really extensive but we have identified some 50 major enterprises, particularly in the oil industry, which deliver their products to private firms although they know very well in advance that those would be able to pay only in twelve to eighteen months. Understandably, big money is made in this way.

The trouble is that it is impossible to fire the managers of such enterprises who are elected by the general meetings of shareholders. To resolve the problems, Aleksandr Livshits proposes a "semi-coercive" approach: The state should buy up the controlling interest in the enterprises suspected of immoral business transactions and ensures the re-establishment of order in their management. "This does look like a temporary return to nationalized property, but there are no other ways of solving the non-payment problem in sight," Livshits said.

Still Livshits suggested another method of handling the problem of corporate debts through mandatory conversion of the currency reserves of debtor-enterprises. The sad situation in Russia at present is such that there is no money to pay wages to workers while the managers find it possible to travel to prestigious foreign resorts, paying for their vacations from their enterprise's hard currency resources.

According to the expert, "he who finds the golden key to the solution of the non-payment problem, will win a solid position in the future elections".

Draft 1995 Budget Likely To Cause Controversy

MK0609080094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Stanislav Koltsov in the "Finances" column: "The Finance Ministry Has Nearly Readied the 1995 Draft Budget. The Draft Will Be Examined by IMF Experts and State Duma Deputies"]

[Text] Informed sources say the Finance Ministry is finalizing work on the 1995 draft budget. There are no final figures yet: Article-by-article projections are being made, but initial consultations between the IMF working delegation and the Finance Ministry leadership should be expected by the middle of this week. Presentation of the draft budget for the fund's appraisal should become the first step toward the opening of negotiations on allocating Russia a stand-by credit. Furthermore, under a State Duma law, the Finance Ministry is obligated to send the draft to parliament before 15 September.

The 1995 budget concept developed by the Finance Ministry is oriented toward achieving by mid-1995 an inflation level of 5 percent a month and its further reduction to 2.5-2.3 percent a month by the end of the year. Finance experts say analysis of various scenarios for socioeconomic development show that such inflation targets can be achieved if a sufficiently tough budget policy is pursued and if the federal budget deficit is reduced to 5 percent of 1995 GNP compared to the forecast level of 10 percent in 1994, and also if the share of emission sources for covering it is reduced. (In the first six months the deficit was 10.9 percent of GNP while, according only to official sources, the Central Bank's share in covering it constituted 18.1 trillion rubles, or 67.3 percent. Furthermore, in the very near future the Central Bank intends to make available to the Finance Ministry another 3 trillion rubles in excess of the planned credit growth ceiling).

In 1995 the Finance Ministry, just like before, intends to resort to the tactic of financing expenditure items as revenues come into the federal budget, and of limiting revenue-based subsidies to sectors and enterprises in the production sphere. The Finance Ministry considers the streamlining of relations between the federal budget and the budgets of the Federation components as one of the key policy lines of 1995. (The first session of the conciliation commission on dividing their powers is scheduled for the second half of September).

By the most optimistic appraisals, the economic price of the proposed threefold reduction in monthly inflation rates in 1995 will be a decline in real GNP volume by 7 percent compared to 1994. (The socioeconomic development forecast for 1994 envisioned a fall in GNP volumes by 7 percent to 10 percent compared to 1993, but judging by the results of the first six months, GNP did not exceed 82 percent of the corresponding period in 1993).

It should be expected, however, that the draft budget will meet with rather tough resistance from the Duma's leading committees. Subject to criticism will be not so much the basic figures of revenue and expenditure articles—the main object of horse trading before parliament approves the budget—as its concept itself, not very different from the 1994 budget. True, the Finance Ministry cannot be blamed for this: As is known, it is certainly not a department which defines priority production sectors.

Revision of Personal Income Taxes Proposed

LD0509194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's Finance Ministry on Friday proposed levying an additional tax of 2 to 5 percent on personal incomes.

The new tax will apply to incomes of more than 15 million rubles a year, a ministry spokesman told the Finance News Agency. For those having an annual per capita income of more than 50 million, the ministry suggests raising the maximum tax from 30 to 40 percent. This is in line with a May 23 presidential decree, the spokesman said.

According to the Economics Ministry, more than 67 percent of all workers in Russia have a yearly per capita income of under 10 million rubles. For this category the Finance Ministry suggests tax concessions, the spokesman said.

But ministry proposes canceling concessions for pensioners and military officers and taxing bank accounts.

The proposals will be considered by the government until September 15, after which they will go before parliament, the spokesman said.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin said on Monday that the government would give the proposals further consideration.

State Receiving Only 50% of Revenues

LD0309062894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Aleksashenko said today that the state is receiving only 50 percent of expected revenues and that it will be getting about 43-45 percent by the end of the year. He gave several reasons for this situation: An inaccurate prediction of inflation levels, a worse-than-expected decline in production, and the government's decision on tax deferments. The main aim of tax reform, the deputy minister said, is to reinforce the budget. It is being proposed that taxes on profits be reduced along with value-added tax to halt the drop in production. The tax burden on the entrepreneur is to be lifted a little, but tax on the income of the very rich will be increased. It is also being proposed that tax privileges be cancelled, including those enjoyed by servicemen, and that the number of federal taxes be reduced along with local taxes, of which there are 67 types. In return, the regional authorities will acquire the right to increase tax rates and introduce license payments.

Unemployment Rises to 1.5 Million in Aug

MM0609091994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 2

[Report from the POSTFACTUM, ITAR-TASS, PRAVDA column under the general heading "Economy and Us": "Lack of Vacancies on Jobs Market"]

[Text] As of 1 August the number of jobless citizens in the country had increased by 50 percent from last year to stand at more than 1.5 million, the Russian Federal Employment Service reports. The unemployment rate in Russia has reached 1.6 percent, but its growth rate has slowed down compared to this spring.

At the same time, the number of vacancies in Russia increased by 8,400 in July to 382,400 at 1 August; 85 percent of the vacancies are for blue-collar workers and 15 percent are for white-collar workers. On average around the country there are 4.1 jobless people for each vacancy notified to employment service organs.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Grachev Praises Russian Troops Role in Germany

LD0309182194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 Sep—The celebrations in honor of the servicemen of the Berlin Brigade, who arrived with the last echelon from the Western Group of Forces, ended with a concert in the Central Theater of the Russian Army. [passage omitted]

Speaking in the Central Theater of the Russian Army, Pavel Grachev stressed that the Russian servicemen had "fulfilled their duty with honor and left the center of Europe with their heads held high." The defense minister called the Russian soldiers "strong" for carrying out successfully by their unbelievable efforts a huge amount of work to redeploy formations and units, combat equipment and weapons, and military property from Germany.

Yuriy Luzhkov, mayor of Moscow, and Matvey Burlakov, deputy defense minister, also spoke at the Central Theater of the Russian Army.

Grachev Speech on Troops' Return

LD0409111794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1849 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Speech by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a gala concert at the Russian Army's Central Theater on 3 September to mark the return of Russian troops from Germany—recorded]

[Text] Deeply respected veterans, dear comrades and friends in arms, servicemen of the Russian Army:

The last Russian soldiers from the Western Group of Forces arrived today at Moscow's Belorussian Station. As of that moment it can be stated unambiguously that the withdrawal of Russian troops from the countries of Europe is definitively complete.

The Soviet and Russian troops who spent almost half a century there provided a reliable defense of our national interests and safeguarded stability in Europe. Throughout that time they formed a logical component of European security and facilitated the strengthening of a new socio-political situation—a situation of partnership based on equal rights and of cooperation among states.

The withdrawal of the troops is, of course, not only unique in its scale and importance as a political and military action—one unmatched by any other state in the world. It is, above all, a reflection of vital realities and the positive changes that have taken place in the world in recent years. It is, ultimately, the culmination of a whole era in the life of postwar Europe. Regardless of how some political forces might try now to interpret the troop withdrawal from territories of other states and to impute negative connotations to it, the fact is that the troop withdrawal was predetermined by the whole course of history and the logic of common sense.

It goes without saying we are today living through an historic moment, one that gives all of us, military and civilians, reason to ponder seriously once more on the lessons of history, on war and peace, on the fates of people and whole generations, and on the present and future of a victorious people and its armed forces. Our troops have fulfilled their mission, and they have done so in a worthy fashion, in keeping with the highest notions of military and patriotic duty and without blemishing battle banners that had been borne through the fires of the most bloody war, one unprecedented in scale, ferocity, and human casualties.

Today we bow our heads before the great feat of the Soviet, Russian soldier who, at the cost of superman efforts, unparalleled courage and self-sacrifice, routed fascism, liberated half of Europe and, in essence, saved the world's civilization. Eternal glory to the great soldiers of the Great Fatherland [War]. You, our dear veterans, drew the victorious line under World War II.

Today Russian soldiers have also drawn a final line of sorts in the annals of events connected to the consequences of that war. They have done their duty with honor and gone proudly with heads held high and self-respect. They have left as victors.

Russia has accomplished the withdrawal of its troops in exact correspondence with international agreements, but undoubtedly at the cost of huge organizational, technical, and very simply human efforts on the part of all personnel, workers, and employees. I wish to stress particularly that this was made possible thanks to the flawless performance, reliability and, I would say, hardiness of the Russian soldier, whether he wore the shoulder-straps of a private or a general. Honor and glory to our Russian warrior. We offer our great thanks to you.

The main thing now is to ensure that people have the fitting, civilized life which they have, as a rule, earned. We are making maximum efforts to overcome the considerable difficulties involved in billeting and accomodating troops withdrawn from the Baltic region and Germany as soon as possible. A television journalist asked me yesterday why the German farewell was accompanied by such ceremony while the recent withdrawal of troops from Latvia and Estonia seemed to pass unmarked. I answered him: It is not possible, one must not compare these events either in the political or the historical or the moral or, indeed, the purely human sense. Victory over fascism is one thing—the withdrawal of troops from former Soviet republics which have become sovereign states is something else entirely.

But these circumstances in no way detract from the contribution of the warriors of the Northwestern Group. In the given case, the important thing is this: Russian soldiers have come home. Welcome back to your native land, to Russia, dear military friends. Today, we must start thinking of our native home. We military people are just as interested as anyone else in civic peace and social stability.

We understand clearly: Unity and accord are necessary not only for the prosperity of our great country but also for successful development of our military affairs. We cannot but be pleased that combat-ready and truly elite military units and formations, the pride of Russia's armed forces, have returned to the vast expanses of the Russian land. In creating a new image for the army, we give priority to improving the system of command and the organizational and personnel structure of the troops, increasing their mobility, supplying them with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment, and ensuring that the troops and forces are provided with everything they need. In these matters, the leaders of the Ministry of Defense are counting on your expertise, discipline, and military skill.

Dear friends! Many of you may be thinking of the now remote May 1945 when the entire Moscow welcomed the frontline soldiers. Today Muscovites are not only welcoming the Russian troops but celebrating the Day of the City as well—a city so dear to the hearts of all our countrymen. From time immemorial Moscow has been a symbol of the greatness and invincibility of this country, a city which never succumbed to the Hitlerite hordes. And the fact that 50 years on, the Russian servicemen, successors to the war soldiers, are coming back on a Day of the City—this is a kind of a good omen. We are returning under the Moscow coat-of-arms—that is, symbolically speaking, under the protection of St. George who symbolizes our loyalty to the sacred ideals of good and justice, freedom and independence of our motherland, the spiritual strength and military glory of the Russian Army. So let no one ever dare to encroach on our country. It is known from history what happens to those who come to us with a sword. As to us, we shall never be the first to raise our sword. True, there is one Russian sword unsheathed outside Russia's boundaries; it is held by a Russian soldier, the world-famous giant warrior standing in Treptow Park with a rescued German girl in his arms. May he always remind the living of the past and make us think of the future. Congratulations to you, my dear friends, and thanks for your attention. [Applause]

Chernomyrdin Addresses Returning Troops

LD0309084894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0544 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at ceremony marking the return of Russian troops from Germany, at the Belorusskiy railroad station in Moscow—live]

[Text] Dear warriors of the Western Group of Forces, esteemed veterans, Muscovites, fellow citizens, on the instructions of the president, on behalf of the government of the Russian Federation, it gives me great satisfaction to greet Russia's soldiers who have returned from Germany to our native land. This square, in front of the Belorusskiy station, recalls the joyful welcome given to the victorious soldiers of 1945. Almost half a century has passed since then and in these past few days the final page of a whole era in the history of Europe, of the whole of humanity itself, has been turned.

Today we are here to welcome you, soldiers and officers of the Western Group of Forces, who have done everything possible to prevent the Cold War turning into a hot one, to prevent German territory becoming the scene of a military clash between the two systems which divided the world at that time, and for us you represent all those Russians who, for almost half a century, succeeding one another, selflessly fulfilled their military and civic duty, the great mission to contain, to prevent a disaster for the world.

The clock of history is now telling a different time. A new world is being born, the chief meaning of which will be mutual respect between peoples and states, their partnership and solidarity. In these conditions, the withdrawal of Russian troops is a natural step for our country which has made its strategic, democratic choice. And that is how this step has been received and understood by the international community - a political and military action, unique in scope, scale and substance, the like of which has never been achieved before anywhere.

The task that the state set you, dear warriors, you have happily fulfilled. Russia thanks you and is proud of you. You have arrived in your native land at a difficult time for us, but Russia has been waiting for her sons. It cannot have been otherwise.

Much has already been done to billet and accommodate the personnel, to provide them with decent living and service conditions.

In the defense budget, priority is being given precisely to matters relating to the social protection of servicemen and the members of their families. I promise you that the government will make every effort to implement what has been planned.

I am sure that the troops who have returned home will remain, in essence, to use a military phrase, first-echelon troops, in terms of the level of their professionalism and combat-effectiveness. By preserving their adherence to the values of freedom and democracy, to the ideals of the new Russia, they will still further strengthen our armed forces.

Esteemed fellow citizens, this station square has heard not only rejoicing, but also sorrow and lamentation for those who did not return from the battlefields. The memory of the people is sacred, for without it there is no honor or dignity, there is no national pride. May 1945 is with us. It is within us. And we cannot allow that memory to remain a useless burden. Lessons must be drawn from it - the commandment of those who have departed, the hopes and aspirations of those who are alive, the unifying of Russia's people.

I believe that another victory awaits all of us in the future - a victory over ourselves, over a lack of belief in our strength, over impatience and intolerance, over the quarrels and conflicts in our multinational home, over all our crises and squabbling. Russia will overcome the present difficult phase. She will break through. She will establish herself as a great authoritative force.

I can see hundreds of young faces here. It is for you to do that. It is for you to bring it into being. Your destiny is the reliable, confident future of Russia.

Welcome to your homeland, dear warriors! Soldiers of a glorious, talented, powerful and free country! Soldiers of the new Russia!

Zhirinovskiy Terms Troop Pullout 'Lamentable'

LD0309162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian troops' complete withdrawal from Germany is a lamentable event, leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told a rally in Moscow's Sokolnicheskaya Square on Saturday.

He is convinced that the Russian troops should have left Germany after the American and French troops, and only after the construction of housing for the servicemen.

He also accused the Russian leaders of failing to lead the country out of the crisis, saying that they must step aside. The reforms have only benefited bureaucrats and criminals, and turned the economy into a scene of crime.

Judging by the current political and economic situation, presidential and parliamentary elections will be held at the end of 1994 or at the beginning of 1995, he said.

The idea of putting off parliamentary elections goes against the Constitution, he said.

He noted, however, that all parliamentary factions except that of the Liberal-Democratic Party may be easily bribed and will vote for prolonging the powers of the president and parliament for another couple of years.

Gen Volkogonov Dissatisified With Troop Pullout

LD0209173394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The meeting of the so-called "Berlin brigade", the last units of the formerly 546,000 contingent of Soviet troops in Germany, is welcomed with dissatisfaction by Colonel General Dmitriy Volkogonov.

"We have withdrawn large numbers of people who have no housing," said Volkogonov in an interview with Interfax on Friday. He believes that if three years ago during the talks about the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, President Gorbachev had conditioned the withdrawal of troops with construction of housing for them the German leadership would have agreed.

"I have always believed that a grave methodological mistake was committed," said Volkogonov.

He said that the same honors should be paid not solely to the troops pulled out from Germany but also from all other states and republics of the former Soviet Union.

On September 3, the Berlin brigade will be welcomed with a ceremony at the Belorusskiy railway station in Moscow. Soldiers will march along Tverskaya Street down to Aleksandrovskiy Gardens where they will place wreaths at the Tomb to the Unknown Soldier.

Grachev Cited on Russian Army Response to Chechnya

Army Ready To Respond if Fighting Escalates

LD0509114794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1056 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep—The Russian Army has taken the most serious measures in connection with the acute worsening of the situation in Chechnya. Russian Defense minister Pavel Grachev said this today in response to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent. In particular, he stressed that several units and sub-divisions of the North Caucasus military district have been put on an increased level of operational readiness. The commanders have been instructed: If the conflict goes beyond the boundaries of Chechnya it is to be localized immediately. Control over air space has been reinforced which is dictated by the need to provide a screen against provocations by Groznyy aviation and, moreover, to prevent air strikes on populated areas bordering on Chechnya. The sub-divisions have taken control of the main roads linking Chechnya with neighboring regions in Russia.

Pavel Grachev stressed that the army is in no way involved in the civil war which has begun in Chechnya due, he believes, to the current leadership of the republic.

Army 'Will Not Influence' Outcome

LD0209160594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax that the Russian armed forces have not influenced the situation in Chechnya and will not do so in the future.

At the same time he said that "whenever and wherever blood has been shed as a result of politicians' incompetence, the Russian Army has been invariably accused."

Grachev believes that the Chechen leader must "deal with his problems himself." He made it clear that Dudayev himself is responsible for the destabilization in Chechnya. "I am certain that he will find it difficult to answer for this," Grachev said.

Lebed on Yeltsin Patronage, Future of 14th Army

MK0309081094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Lukin on interview with Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of 14th Army, under the "14th Army Reform" rubric: "General Wants To Quit, After Settling Scores With Everyone"]

[Text] The fourth anniversary of the unrecognized Dniester Region Moldovan Republic was marked in Tiraspol yesterday. Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed shared his views on the situation in the region and problems related to the 14th Army's stay there in an exclusive interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY.

Gen. Aleksandr Lebed preferred not to dwell on the bottom line of the recent events regarding attempts to reorganize the 14th Army command. The general himself has to engage in political activity just because "over here all matters are related to politics." When asked whether the commander intends somehow to exploit his political potential, Aleksandr Lebed said: "I came into the army consciously, voluntarily, and I love it. I would like to stay in the army. I am a man of common sense and I am not prying into political intrigues. At the same time, I am a Russian citizen, a Russian general, and have the right to vote. If I think that actions are being undertaken that are detrimental to Russia's interests and security, then I bluntly voice my opinion."

In particular, the general thinks that currently it is essential to form a "unifying national ideology," without which, in his view, no reform is possible in the Armed Forces or in the state. "We do not have democratic authority, nor do I expect to live to see it," the army commander emphasized. "A democratic society should be built for centuries, brick by brick, and there is no hope of passing from a totalitarian regime to a democracy overnight." The commander believes that "teeth are given to humans not only to chew, but to show them systematically. Currently it is not enough to have masticatory instincts; one has to be tough." At the same time, the general is somewhat surprised to learn that he enjoys authority not only among his subordinates, but also in criminal circles where he is "for some reason regarded as one of their own."

Aleksandr Lebed denied rumors that he retained his post thanks to Boris Yeltsin. On the contrary, the general thinks, the president does not have particular grounds to be kindly disposed toward him. Evidently, he thinks, because as early as September 1991 he made a public statement which sounded shocking at the time—the general stated that he did not consider himself a defender of the White House. "I was afraid of getting lost in the heroic crowd of the defenders of democracy," he explained.

Turning to regional problems, the general said that his relations with the Dniester Region leadership went sour after 14th Army servicemen detained "Battalion Commander" Kostenko—a field commander charged with committing numerous serious crimes whose connections lead to the republic's top leadership. When Kostenko was detained in July 1992, the paratroopers disarmed a Dniester Region Guards Battalion. (Soon after his arrest, Kostenko was killed under mysterious circumstances, but no one can confirm that with absolutely certainty.) Now Lebed is certain that authority in Tiraspol will soon change. "I think that the abscess will burst," the lieutenant general emphasized.

As for the future of the 14th Army, Aleksandr Lebed stated once again that unless all matters concerning the withdrawal of the Russian troops are resolved clearly, the tension in the region could heighten drastically, something that would entail "mass seizure of weapons." Gen. Lebed also fears that the decision to pull out the army would give rise to a psychology of "one-nighters [vremenshchiki—army people who know they will be deployed somewhere only for a short time and thus are uninterested in enhancing professionalism]." In his view, this mistake has already corrupted the Western and the Northwestern Groups of Forces. "It was the pathetic remnants of an army that were leaving Germany and the Baltics. One should go with dignity, graciously, having settled scores with everyone," Aleksandr Lebed asserted. The general also said that, in his view, a decision will be negotiated for a Russian military base set up on the basis of 14th Army units to remain on Dniester territory.

Official Denies 'Serious Instances' of Nuclear Theft

LD0609155594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] There has not been any serious instances of theft of nuclear materials, the head of the press center of Gosatomnadzor [State Committee for Atomic Energy Oversight] of Russia, Yuriy Rogozhin, said. What has been stolen cannot be used to manufacture weapons:

[Correspondent A. Peslyak] Representatives of Russia's Gosatomnadzor spoke today about physical protection of nuclear materials. There are many reasons to be concerned and even alarmed: The absence of a legal foundation for counting and control of stocks of radioactive materials; the absence of one single control system; and finally, a shortage of technical equipment for exercising such control.

Indeed, it is now impossible for one armed man to guard the nuclear sites, as it used to be in the past. What is required is protection of atomic power stations and chemical combines by electronic, acoustic, and space means.

There is poor interaction with the Defense Ministry and with other departments: the Ministry of Atomic Energy; the Defense Ministry; the Academy of Sciences; and federal centers. Yet, despite the absence of a single system for guarding nuclear substances, Gosatomnadzor believes conditions for provision of their physical preservation to be quite reliable. The so-called everyday nuclear terrorism is a consequence of incompetence among adventurists and vendors and buyers of low-grade uranium, which is taken from the waste of chemical combines.

Progress Docking With Mir Station Successful

LD0209161194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1509 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Flight Control Center, 2 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Today at 1730 hours Moscow time the Progress M-24 cargo spacecraft was docked to the manned Mir complex.

Up to a distance of 150 meters the mutual search and rendezvousing of the space vehicles was carried out automatically and controlled by the Flight Control Center in interaction with the command and measuring complex, and also the cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko, Tolgat Musabayev, and Valeriy Polyakov.

Thereafter control of Progress M-24 during its mooring and docking with the Mir complex was handled by crew commander Yuriy Malenchenko. The process was carried out using apparatus aboard the space station and the spaceship that provides for remote manual control of the cargo spacecraft.

The cargo ship is docked to the space station's transfer compartment. New equipment, scientific apparatus, food, and water have been delivered into space.

According to the telemetric data and crew reports the systems aboard the Mir research complex are operating normally.

Mir Cosmonauts To Walk in Space 9 Sep

LD0509161694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1516 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—Cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko and Talgat Musabayev, currently working in space on board the orbital station Mir, will walk into open space to carry out scheduled tasks and examine the outer surface of the Mir station in the area of the docking mechanism touched twice by the Progress M-24 cargo spaceship during two previous attempts to dock with the orbital station which ended in failure.

During a space walk scheduled on September 9 the cosmonauts will examine the station to see if there is any damages and report to the Space Mission Control Centre about the results of the inspection. If necessary, the cosmonauts will walk out in space on September 13 to repair damages, ITAR-TASS learned today from

Chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Exploitation of the Mir Orbital Station and Commander of the Russian Space Forces, Colonel-General Vladimir Ivanov.

Besides, pilot engineer Talgat Musabayev is expected to carry out scheduled repairs of a thermal-isolation cover of the space complex which was damaged in January when the Soyuz TM-17 spaceship with cosmonauts Vasiliy Tsybley and Aleksandr Serebrov on board touched the "Mir" station when returning to the earth. Ivanov hopes that these defects are inconsiderable and that the hermetic hull of the station remained intact.

Space Emergency Leaves Unanswered Questions

MM0209144594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Boris Konovalov: "Abortive 'Progress' Dockings: Unanswered Questions"]

[Text] By the time this issue of IZVESTIYA comes out, a dramatic docking in space will be complete. Regardless of how the emergency situation in orbit is resolved, there are still questions which still remain unanswered.

Korolev's former firm, the "Energiya" Science and Production Association, is now a private firm, to whit a joint-stock company. The space ferry belongs to it. If it is lost, the firm should ideally bear full material responsibility along with the Flight Control Center. If the program has to be interrupted owing to this incident and the crew brought back to Earth, the firm should also be accountable for this. But there is no such agreement between the "Energiya" Science and Production Association and the Russian Space Agency [RSA], which concludes commercial contracts with foreign agencies, including the European Space Agency [ESA]. The total cost of the program for the European astronaut's flight to the Mir station is estimated, according to unofficial data, at $15-20 million.

Who will be accountable for the loss of the ESA's valuable freight onboard the hapless "Progress"? The RSA or the "Energiya" Science and Production Association? Previously the state was accountable for everything, and everything was written off at a stroke of the pen. Now we have entered the era of market relations and there is virtually no legal base for space exploration.

Hitherto, and unlike in the West, our space apparatus and rocket launches were not insured. Evidently this situation cannot continue for long if we want to operate on the world space rocket market as equal partners.

If everything sorts itself out somehow and the docking ultimately goes OK, that will not remove the questions that the emergency situation in orbit has raised with renewed urgency. They still have to be resolved. If the docking fails, this will have lamentable consequences for Russian space exploration. The prestige of our space exploration will be undermined and the hopes of earning money from commercial launches may burst like a "bubble." Considering that at the moment the question of the Russian space industry's survival is linked with Western financial investments, one failure may wipe out all the successes of the last few years.

Regional Affairs

Groznyy Demands Russian Journalists Leave Chechnya

LD0209142994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1413 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Groznyy, 2 Sep—The official government in Groznyy demanded today that all Russian journalists leave the republic within 24 hours. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the seat of Dzhokhar Dudayev's government that the reason for the decision is the fact that "the Russian media are obviously prejudiced in their reports from Chechnya".

An announcement which has been circulated in Groznyy says the official authorities do not guarantee the safety of those journalists who do not comply with the decision.

Correspondents from other countries have been allowed to stay in Chechnya.

Journalists' Expulsion Condemned

LD0309095894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0848 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep—The Russian Federation Press Committee today expressed its protest and condemned the decision of official Groznyy to deport Russian journalists from Chechnya.

As Sergey Gryzunov, deputy chairman of the Russian press committee, said in an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, "the decision taken by the Chechen regime to deport Russian journalists and the direct danger to their safety constitute gross violation of the freedom of speech and human rights in general. It is absolutely clear that the cause for this action is not the subjective coverage of the events in Chechnya by the Russian journalists but Dudayev's attempts to cover up his own sins before the Russian public and international community".

The attempt to turn Chechnya into an information vacuum reminds us of the worst actions taken by such totalitarian regimes as Hoxha's Albania or the present North Korean one, Gryzunov stressed.

The Russian Federation Press Committee expresses its resolute protest against such actions and condemns them, the deputy chairman stated.

Filatov on Journalists' Expulsion

LD0309234794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 3 September—During in an ITAR-TASS interview today, Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, drew a direct parallel between official Groznyy's decision to expel Russian journalists from Chechnya and the closure of newspapers ordered by the State Committee for the State of Emergency in August 1991. According to Filatov, "every dictatorship seeks first of all to do away with objective coverage of its actions. But history teaches us that one cannot hide anything from the people."

Sergey Filatov stressed that since Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation, any emergency measures in the republic's territory can, in accordance with the constitution, only be introduced by the central authorities. Therefore, Sergey Filatov believes that the decision to expel the Russian journalists is a direct violation of constitutional norms, human rights, and freedom of the press.

Moreover, such a decision exposes the standards of behavior of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the man who claims to be "a progressive leader of an independent state," said the head of the Russian president's administration.

Dudayev Forces Expected To Attack Tolstoy-Yurt

LD0509211294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2010 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Tonight an attack is expected by forces loyal to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev on the positions of the armed formations of the Interim Council, it was reported to a correspondent of the POSTFACTUM agency at the press service of the Interim Council. The amassing of government troops is being observed at the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, 12 km from Groznyy on the approaches to the town of Urus-Martan, which is under the control of the armed grouping of Beslan Gantamirov, it states in the dispatch from the headquarters of the Interim Council's armed forces. It is also reported that at the flat which is the headquarters of Khasbulatov's peace-keeping group in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, people's militia are being formed from among the supporters of the Interim Council, which has already been joined by several dozen citizens.

Paper on Chechnya Fighting, Opposition Tactics

MM0509191794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Aleksandr Yevtushenko: "It Seems That the Politicians Have Done Their Worst: War Has Come to Russia. The Flourishing Town of Argun Destroyed by Dudayev"]

[Text] A brutal battle broke out on the night of Sunday through Monday morning near the small town [gorodok] of Argun, where a detachment of the implacable armed opposition under the command of Ruslan Labazanov is based. Government troops brought their forces all the way up to Argun Bridge, where Labazanov had his reinforced position. And then they attacked. Chechnya General Prosecutor Usman Imayev said that Labazanov's followers had not expected such an onslaught. Having lost five men in the first assault, they quickly dispersed through the town. They took partial shelter under the bridge and continued to return fire. But they were unable to hold out against the army subunits, which were reinforced by armored vehicles. After brief negotiations 11 people gave themselves up as prisoners. On the approach road to Argun, according to the information of the same source, an opposition detachment sent to the rescue by Ruslan Khasbulatov was blockaded, disarmed, and taken captive. Towards morning Labazanov came out to the branch line, stopped a steam train, and fled in the direction of Dagestan.

According to reports from Nadterechnyy Rayon, government forces attacked Labazanov's detachment and used not only armored cars but also aircraft and even a missile launcher. The town has been half destroyed, and is everywhere aflame. According to the most modest estimates, not less than 10 people were killed on Labazanov's side. Barely more than half of Khasbulatov's detachment of 70 men returned to Tolstoy-Yort. The fate of the rest is unknown. The Provisional Council made a radio appeal to inhabitants of the republic, calling on them to take up arms and join battle with the government forces. Ruslan Khasbulatov demanded on his own independent television station that Dudayev's commanders lay down their arms and surrender. Otherwise, he promised that, when the regime has been overthrown, he would throw them into dungeons, or destroy them altogether.

I think that it cannot be claimed that Ruslan Labazanov's detachment has been completely annihilated by this latest blow to the grouping. I am sure that in only a few days time this leader's warriors will gather round him (and Labazanov had not less than 300), and he will again declare his readiness to make war on the regime—with still greater fury. I think that common sense will help this "Chechen Robin Hood" to overcome his arrogance and that his brigade will merge with the armed forces of the united opposition.

Meanwhile, I was told at the opposition's operational headquarters that the Provisional Council is continuing to regroup of its armed forces in Znamenskoye, Nadterechnyy Rayon's rayon center, and is patrolling the territories which it has taken under its control. A lighting strike against Groznyy is not planned—it is too dangerous. The opposition will continue to occupy region after region and carry out work among the population. And when it sees that the people have "matured" enough to overthrow the regime, it will entrench itself as near as possible to the capital for the decisive push.

They are preparing for the same in the settlement of Urus-Martan, at the base of Bislan Gantamirov's detachment. I was told in his headquarters: "The Chechnya Ministry of Internal Affairs has elaborated a large-scale plan for reprisals against the opposition forces. The government intends to move all existing units, artillery, and armored vehicles under its command against us. In the event of serious resistance on our part—and this is exactly what will follow—a massive missile strike against opposition bases from 'Grad' missile launchers is planned. If, of course, they are able to do so. After all, we do not intend to wear kid gloves either. But it is not we who are to make the decision on the general uprising [vystupleniye], but Provisional Council headquarters."

But meanwhile Dudayev, as commander in chief of the Chechnya Armed Forces, is tactically outsmarting the opposition. "With the rout of Labazanov's grouping, we have only just begun the annihilation of all bandit formations," republic General Prosecutor Usman Imayev says. "All the rest will follow—the followers of Avturkhanov and Gantamirov, and so forth. A rally of the people on the square in Groznyy demanded that we do this. And we will fulfill their legitimate demand."

Thus the opposition will now have either to abandon the venture of trying to overthrow the official authorities and flee one by one from the republic, or "go for broke," as the saying goes. There is no third option. Dudayev, as the night's events in Argun showed, will not stop at any victims.

But this will come later. Meanwhile, Groznyy is ready for a big holiday—the third anniversary of the Chechen Republic's independence. The city is decked with banners and the flags of various states. Including those of the United States and even Russia. It was on 6 September 1991 that the Supreme Soviet of Checheno-Ingushetia, as it then was, was dissolved, and national independence proclaimed. On that occasion also the lawful authorities were overthrown by force. A crowd of "revolutionaries" marched on the government building with sticks and shotguns (the real weapons were still in the army dumps of Russian military units), burst into the session, and literally threw Doku Zavgayev, chairman of the Checheno-Ingushetia SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, out on his neck. There was a casualty—one man fell from a window. But this time everything is far more serious. And more terrifying. As Bislan Gantamirov told me, "Dzhokhar Dudayev and his power structures have taught us to fear neither blood, nor casualties, nor even bloody vengeance. We see that his lackeys get away scot free with all murders. And they themselves no longer have any regard for anything."

Thus, if the law of bloody vengeance has ceased to be a restraining factor for Chechens, today's holiday could well prove to be a festival in the time of plague. And if troops leave the parade with the blessing of their commander in chief to "finish off" the opposition, the colored musical fountain that has been opened outside the president's palace will not charm away hundreds of funeral processions.

Chechen Vice-President on 'Impossibility' of Talks

LD0309162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Chechnya's Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said that talks with the opposition were impossible. "Only after they lay down armas and accept the guilt for what they have done, shall we deal with them," he told Interfax on Saturday.

He also emphasized that the Chechen leaders were taking measures to normalize the situation. All of these bandit groupings have been localized and will be done away with soon, he said.

Our policy was aimed at avoiding bloodshed, he continued. However, the opposition has unleashed bloodshed, thus putting itself on the verge of annihilation, he said.

Commenting on the activity of ex-speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov he said: "Not a single person in Chechnya has ever perceived him as someone who arrived in Chechnya with good will. He is perceived without any doubt as an agent of the Russian special services. He is engaged in demagogy which he had learned in the Russian parliament. The population is well ware of this and has been tolerant to him so far. However, measures will have to be taken against him, he said.

Speaking about the possibility of settling relations between Groznyy and Moscow, Yandarbiyev said: "Chechnya will not be a part of Russia. Everybody must understand this once and for all. Relations similar to the ones between Russia and Tatarstan are unacceptable." (Kazan signed a power-sharing agreement with Moscow - Interfax).

The best way of solving the problem might be found during talks without any preliminary terms, taking into account that we are neighbors and are linked by God's will.

Chechen Official Claims Russian 'Open Aggression'

LD0209163794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Active hostilities began this morning on the outskirts of Groznyy, capital of the Chechen Republic. Igor Malov, correspondent of the POSTFACTUM agency who is currently in Groznyy, presents the version of the official authorities:

[Begin Malov recording] According to Movladi Udugov, head of the Chechen Republic's press and information department, at 1200 hours today Russian helicopters from the base in Mozdok delivered missile attacks on settlements 20 km from Groznyy. There are considerable casualties. There have been four sorties.

At the same time with the attacks, the minister said, from the direction of Nadterechnyy Rayon, a tank convoy consisting of approximately 12 tanks approached these settlements. As a result of a three-hour-long fight with government troops and local home guards, one tank was knocked out of action. The government troops have also seized an armored personnel carrier.

In Udugov's words, eight people have been taken prisoner. According to preliminary information, there are Russian servicemen among them. The Russian Armed Forces have begun an open aggression against the independent Chechen state, Udugov said. [end recording]

[Announcer] Neither the Russian military nor the representatives of the opposition have confirmed so far that any units of the Russian army are taking part in the hostilities. Here is what Ruslan Martagov, press secretary of the leader of the interim supreme council, has told us.

[Begin Martagov recording] The interim council regards today's combat clashes as an encouraging factor. First, our people have not been under fire yet. Second, although we had very poor equipment and one could say no communication, the interim council managed to organize and conduct the fighting so that we suffered no losses.

At its sitting yesterday the interim council adopted the decision to turn to active actions. [end recording]

[Annoucer] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is holding a conference in Groznyy at this moment. Our radio station has been told that the Chechen Government intends to approach the inhabitants of the Znamenskoye settlement, the center of Nadterechnyy Rayon, with the request to leave their houses for the time being. This is connected with the plan to deliver a fire attack from Grad missile launchers on the headquarters of the interim council. According to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, several fighters of the government troops were hovering above Groznyy this afternoon.

Colonel Krylov of Russian counterintelligence, who was captured in Groznyy, has begun giving evidence to the investigation group. Among other things, he said representatives of the Russian State Committee for Nationalities; leaders of the Federal Counterintelligence Service; and Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the provisional administration in the state of emergency zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, took part in drawing up a plan of combat actions by the opposition forces. To all appearances, Moscow is seriously concerned over Krylov's evidence.

[Begin Malov recording] The security service under the Chechen president announced today that the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service has proposed to them that a top-ranking employee of the Russian special services be exchanged for all leaders of the opposition. [end recording]

Chechen Government Troops Kill 40 Opposition

LD0509170694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Forty members of the opposition armed unit headed by Ruslan Labazanov were killed during the operation conducted by government troops in the early hours of Monday in the town of Argun (20 kilometers away from Groznyy), Interfax was told on Monday by Chechen Interior Minister Ayub Satuyev. He said that the operation to neutralize the Labazanov grouping continued for three hours. Labazanov and some of his supporters managed to escape.

Satuyev said that government troops captured 10 pieces of armored equipment, including three tanks. About 70 percent of the armed supporters of the opposition were taken prisoner. Satuyev said that among them are four Russian military instructors and deputy head of the opposition Provisional Council Bakman Bisultanov.

He said that the operation to neutralize the Labazanov grouping was carried out with participation of Chechen security units and police force. The Abkhazian battalion and special police units were sent to Argun to take it under control. Many of the police are experienced fighters who took part in hostilities in trouble spots in the CIS and Afghanistan.

'Interim Council' Calls For International Aid

LD0509190494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye, Nadterechnyy rayon of Chechnya, 5 Sep—The Interim Council of the Chechen Republic has adopted an appeal to international, humanitarian, human rights, and peacekeeping organizations with a request for aid in the form of medical supplies and other humanitarian cargos.

In the document of the Interim Council, signed by its chairman Umar Avturkhanov, it says, in particular, that "combat actions have been taking place already for several days in the territory of the Chechen Republic. Under these conditions it is necessary to do everything possible to prevent casualties among the civilian population, to reduce the scale of destruction, and to preserve the norms of international humanitarian rights."

On its side the Interim Council expresses its readiness to take every possible action to provide for the observance of the norms and principles of international humanitarian rights.

In the appeal to the Red Cross and Red Crescent international committee a request is expressed that it should send its representatives into the territories controlled by the Interim Council forces.

Contradictory Figures on Chechen Casualties

LD0509183094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1720 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Sep—Contradictory information is coming out of Chechnya concerning the clash between opposition forces and Dzhokhar Dudayev's military formations in the town of Argun last night.

According to figures from the Interim Council, the armed clash near the town of Argun caused numerous casualties on both sides, including civilians. Many town areas caught fire. Ruslan Labazanov's division reportedly lost 15 men killed, while Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters lost up to 50 men. In addition, of the 70 men reportedly sent from the village of Tolstoy-Yurt to help Ruslan Labazanov, only 45 returned by morning.

At the same time, as an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Movladi Udugov, head of the Chechen information and press department, "the republic's Interior Ministry carried out an operation over two hours to localize the groupings of Ruslan Labazanov and Bek Baskhanov in the town of Argun." Before the operation began, Ruslan Labazanov headed for woods near the settlement of Dzhalka in Gudermesskiy Rayon. According to information from an offical Chechen spokesman, during the operation four supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev were wounded and none killed. Five opposition men were killed, according to preliminary information.

Movladi Udugov claims there are no wounded among the civilian population of Argun, nor was there any destruction; the battle took place outside it.

According to a report from the "Chechenpress" agency, during the operation 52 opposition supporters were arrested, three APCs destroyed, and two tanks captured that had been going to help Ruslan Labazanov's grouping from the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, where Ruslan Khasbulatov's peacekeeping group is headquartered.

Official on Possible Exchange of Russian Officer

LD0309144594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] A senior Chechen security officer told Interfax Friday on behalf of his superiors in Groznyy that they do not rule out the possibility of transferring Colonel Krylov, a federal counterintelligence officer, to the Russian side.

The officer who preferred to stay anonymous alleged that an offer to swop a Russian counterintelligence agent for an opposition leader was made on the Chechen special services behalf at a meeting with federal counterintelligence service representatives earlier in the week. Krylov was kidnapped by gunmen and handed to the Chechen leadership.

Unidentified FCS Officer Released

LD0509092894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0848 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 5 September—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] officer, taken hostage recently by one of the armed Chechen groups and handed over to official Groznyy, has been released from the Dudayev torture chambers during the past 24 hours as a result of measures taken. This was reported to ITAR-TASS today at the FCS public relations center.

It was noted at the counterintelligence service that the FCS public relations center will hold a briefing in the next few days at which the press will be informed of the details of the incident in question.

Chechen City of Argun Captured by Dudayev's Men

LD0509092594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0829 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy rayon Chechnya), 5 September— As a result of a fierce battle yesterday evening and last night between the armed subunits of Dzhokhar Dudayev and an opposition detachment of Ruslan Labazanov, the town of Argun was seized by units of the president of Chechnya.

As a result of the clash, the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from the Interim Council, there are numerous casualties on both sides, including civilians. According to preliminary reports, over 15 people have died in the detachment of Ruslan Labazanov alone. Dzhokhar Dudayev's formations have also suffered large losses. However, the precise number is still unknown.

According to information which ITAR-TASS has from sources in the interim council, several rayons of the town of Argun, situated 15 km from Groznyy, are on fire.

ITAR-TASS has details about the clashes throughout the night in Argun according to which Dzhokhar Dudayev's soldiers in the detachment headed by Shamil Basayev and in the subunits of the Chechen state security department headed by Sultan Geliskhanov attacked the town from three sides after letting a detachment of mercenaries through first.

The attack was backed by artillery fire, tanks, and aircraft. Dudayev's armed units struck at residential blocks in Argun and, breaking through Ruslan Labazanov's defense detachment, went into the town. According to the information we have, grenade launchers and mortar fire were used in the street fighting.

Yesterday two tanks and two armored personnel carriers escorted by 70 soldiers of the Interim Council home guard moved out of the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, location of the headquarters of Ruslan Khasbulatov's supporters, towards Argun to help Ruslan Labazanov. By this morning only 45 people had so far returned to Tolstoy-Yurt from the battle zone.

ITAR-TASS does not yet have available information from official Groznyy about the clash in Argun.

Civilian Evacuation From Znamenskoye Urged

LD0409201894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] [Announcer] Groznyy has urged the people of Nadterechnyy district to evacuate their families from Znamenskoye, which is where the anti-Dudayev opposition is based. The reason is the Chechen authorities' desire to avoid civilian casualties during measures against the opposition headquarters.

INTERFAX reports that measures to neutralize opposition groupings are planned to take place after 6 September, following Independence Day. Delegations from 40 countries are expected to arrive in Groznyy for the festivities.

UN observers will also arrive in Groznyy in the near future, journalists were told in Groznyy by Usman Imayev, Chechnya's procurator general.

[Begin POSTFACTUM correspondent Igor Malov recording] He said that on 28 August he sent a letter to New York to Marrack Goulding, the head of the UN's political department and special advisor to the UN secretary general, [words indistinct] on the need for international verification of the campaign of terror unleashed by Russia against the Chechen Republic.

Usman Imayev said an affirmative answer was received to the letter. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was POSTFACTUM agency correspondent Igor Malov reporting. Meanwhile, the Chechen leadership is continuing to accuse Russia of supporting the opposition. Groznyy claims it has proof that Moscow is supplying weaponry to the anti-Dudayev forces, and that Russian special services personnel are working for the opposition. Here is Igor Malov again.

[Begin Malov recording] Chechen Procurator General Usman Imayev today showed journalists weapons and explosives confiscated by the republic's special services from a terrorist group operating, he said, at the behest of the [Russian Federal] Counterintelligence Service.

Imayev also showed expert findings testifying that six unexploded mines recovered from railway lines and the Groznyy (?Drama Theater) are identical to anti-tank mines obtained by the Chechen special services at a Russian base in Mozdok. Even the serial numbers coincide.

Usman Imayev showed journalists documents confiscated from three Russian citizens in the vicinity of the fighting near Dolinskiy village on 2 September. Two of these citizens were carrying [Russian] police identity papers, (?issued by the Interior Ministry), and also weapons.

According to Usman Imayev, the Chechnya law enforcement bodies are currently holding seven members of the Russian special services, five of whom are with the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

Igor Malov, POSTFACTUM agency, specially for the Ekho Moskvy radio station, Groznyy. [end recording]

Opposition, Government Forces Clash Near Argun

LD0409200594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy district), 4 Sep—There was an armed clash this evening between the subunits of the Interim Council of Chechnya and the troops of the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime in the region of the town of Argun, 15 km from Groznyy. According to information from the Interim Council of the Chechen Republic, nine people from Ruslan Labazanov's detachment were killed. The number of casualties in Dudayev's troops are being established.

The armed incident started in the middle of the day, when the positions of one of Ruslan Labazanov's subunits were shelled from the rear from a cannon and heavy machine-guns. The shelling continued for several hours. At the same time, Dudayev's armed forces carried out an artillery attack on the positions of the Interim council troops in the region of the village of Ken-Yurt, 20 km from Groznyy, but there were no casualties in this case.

Opposition Forces Attempt To Seize Chechen Capital

LD0209160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The forces behind Chechnya's Provisional Council on Friday morning launched an operation in a bid to take control of the capital Groznyy, the council's press center reports. The council's headquarters is in the Nadterechnyy District.

The press center said the forces of the opposition are out to eliminate armed posts placed by Dudayev's supporters on routes leading to the city. A fire exchange is in progress near the village of Dolinsk, several kilometers away from Groznyy. The press center official has no details about the clash. However, he claims that President Dzhokhar Dudayev's forces use howitzers.

The decision to launch the operation was made on Thursday when reports arrived of an attack by

Dudayev's supporters on the district center Urus-Martan. A clash near that locality, controlled by the opposition, left a dozen people dead on both sides.

Official sources in Groznyy have confirmed the fire exchange near the village of Dolinsk and said there was a fresh clash in the village of Goity, near the Urus-Martan district center. According to Groznyy's sources four people died in the fire exchange on both sides.

A reliable source also reports a fire exchange in the town of Argun between government forces and a detachment of opposition supporter Ruslan Labazanov. No details are known yet.

Kalmykia's Ilyumzhinov Urges Yeltsin-Dudayev Meeting

MK0309100094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Presidents" rubric: "Akhsarbek Galazov Thinks It Is Time for Russia To Decide How Chechnya Is Related to It. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov Urges Boris Yeltsin Urgently To Meet With Dzhokhar Dudayev"]

[Text] Kalmykian President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov has told your SEGODNYA correspondent that "since Dzhokhar Dudayev is a legitimately elected president of Chechnya on whom the people of the republic have pinned their confidence, so, in Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's place, one should have immediately invited him for an official conversation to discuss ways of restoring peace." According to Mr. Ilyumzhinov, "There are many people wishing to replace presidents and to take over the presidential seat not only in Chechnya, but in all other republics, including Kalmykia and Russia itself." The Kalmykian president is certain that "this is not the reason to consider these countless aspirants as leaders of the republics." "Of course, currently not one Russian politician is venturing openly to call for forcible actions; the party of war always keeps a low profile, but it is enough to read recent Moscow newspapers to understand who is interested in that," Mr. Ilyumzhinov said. "Once blood-letting begins in Chechnya, Russia will simply have to bring in troops, because its Constitution obliges it to do so," he added, noting he is certain that this turn of events will have disastrous consequences for the entire Federation.

North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov thought it "tactless" to say whether he considers Dzhokhar Dudayev a legitimate president of the Chechen Republic. "The Chechen people themselves should decide this; the development of events will show everything," he stated. Akhsarbek Galazov pointed out that he does "not believe in talk about Russia's interference in the Chechen conflict." At the same time, he said that "Russia should have long ago made up its mind: if Chechnya is a republic that is part of the Federation, one should have applied all legitimate means to make it toe the line. If Chechnya is an independent state, then relations with it should be built as with all other states."

Shokhin, Grachev Remarks on Chechnya Situation

LD0209163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By Nikolai Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; from the "Presidential Bulletin"]

[Text] The Russian Government must use political clout to try to change the situation in Chechnya, Vice-Premier Alexander Shokhin said speaking in Kiev on Friday. On yesterday's violent clashes there, he said "Chechnya has long been one of Russia's troublespots."

Shokhin said that any degeneration of political confrontation into violence or even a mini civil war was fraught with most dire implications. "This is of our great concern", he said.

There were violent clashes between troops loyal to President Dzhokhar Dudayev and opposition forces led by Beslan Gatemirov in Urus-Martan region on Thursday which left at least 11 people dead and five others injured.

Intelligence sources say that a Russian counterintelligence officer who was recently captured by Chechen government troops was placed under duress to force him to give away sensitive information about operations by the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

They do not rule out that the officer could be shown at mass gatherings in the capital Groznyy and attempts would be made to force him to repent in public.

In the meantime, the intelligence bodies have appealed to acting Prosecutor General Alexey Ilyushenko to bring criminal charges against Dudayev following his threats of physical elimination of top Russian officials.

At the moment this edition of the Presidential Bulletin was to be published Interfax learned that the forces of Chechnya's opposition Provisional Council started an operation in order to take Groznyy, the Chechen capital, under their control.

According to a representative of the press center of the Provisional Council, the opposition formations have been ordered to liquidate armed posts deployed by Dudayev's supporters on the approaches to the city. In particular, a fire engagement is already going on near the village of Dolinsk which is situated several kilometers from Groznyy.

On Friday Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev declared to Interfax that the Russian army has not exerted and will not exert any influence upon the inner situation in Chechnya.

At the same time he pointed out that "the Russian army is being accused everywhere "where there are disorders, where blood is pouring as a result of dull actions of political leaders."

"I'd like to officially declare that the Russian army fulfills its tasks to ensure the state's security from any outside attack. I ask you to tell this to Dudayev," Grachev underlined.

'Full Text' of Government Appeal to Chechen People

LD0309143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1327 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—We transmit the full text of the Russian Federation Government's appeal to the Chechen people:

"Appeal by the Russian Federation Government to the Chechen people:

The acute aggravation of the situation in the Chechen Republic and the development of the confrontation into armed conflicts has taken the situation to a brink beyond which begins the conflagration of civil war. The proud and freedom-loving Chechen people, who were not broken by Stalinist repressions, cannot allow itself the luxury of destroying itself for the benefit of arrogant political adventurers.

The Russian Federation Government appeals to the whole population of the Chechen Republic to display restraint and calm, not to give way to any provocations from Dudayev and his entourage announcing the introduction of Russian troops. Not a single military unit of the Russian Federation has crossed the administrative boundaries of the Chechen Republic.

What is needed is not provocations but a constructive search for a way out of the crisis on the basis of the Chechen people's right to decide its own fate. The Russian Federation Government supports the proposals for resolving the crisis, in accordance with which Dzhokhar Dudayev should find the courage to resign peacefully and with dignity in order to achieve an immediate cessation of bloodshed, avoid civil war, and save the Chechen people. All power in the Chechen Republic must be concentrated in the hands of a united government in which representatives of Chechnya's clans [teyp] and religious authorities can participate.

It is now clear to everyone that in the traditional structure of Chechen society, attempts to concentrate power in one set of hands lead to an escalation of political tension and an increase in violence. Therefore, after the situation has been stabilized and priority economic tasks have been resolved in the Chechen Republic, free elections to the republic's parliament should be prepared and conducted, and its government formed.

The Chechen people has every opportunity to realize the ideas of freedom and independence in the friendly family of peoples of Russia, without disrupting established ties, voluntarily, in the form of a treaty, demarcating the powers and subjects of jurisdiction with the Russian Federation.

Today the people of the Chechen Republic, as the sole source of power, is faced with a historic nationwide choice—to destroy itself in a bloody conflagration of civil war, or to show strength and wisdom and strictly to submit to its will the actions of leaders of the various political forces, with the aim of firmly establishing peace, order, and stability in the long-suffering Chechen land.

The Russian Federation Government expresses gratitude to the Chechen diaspora overseas, which is confident that the preservation of the Chechen nation is linked with Russia, and backs Russia's efforts to prevent fratricidal conflict in Chechnya."

Khasbulatov, Avturkhanov: Dudayev Has 'Few Days'

LD0409114594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy Rayon), 4 Sep—At [Ruslan] Khasbulatov's initiative, a meeting took place on Saturday evening between him and Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic. It was devoted to the events of the last few days.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today that the three-hour meeting highly assessed the state of the military subunits of the Chechen Republic's Provisional Council. The Provisional Council decided to step up combat actions and to form an additional three battalions. Khasbulatov said that for his part he is ready to create a home guard numbering many thousands which will be subordinate to the military command of the Chechen Republic's Provisional Council.

In a television interview shown on an independent television channel after the meeting, Khasbulatov noted that "the degree to which the armed forces of the Chechen republic's Provisional Council are armed, their combat readiness, and the strength of their morale are so great that it is only a matter of a few days before Dzhokhar Dudayev is overthrown."

In his turn, Avturkhanov warned Dudayev that "if Dudayev tries to carry out his threat to attack the village of Znamenskoye, the Chechen Republic's Provisional Council will respond by destroying the rayon of Groznyy in which Dudayev's relatives live."

Cossack Elders Denounce Agreement With Chechens

LD0509122894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nataliya Cherepanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg TASS—The Elders Council of the Union of Russian and Foreign Cossack Troops has denounced the signing of an agreement between the Don Cossacks and the Dudayev regime in the break-away republic of Chechnya.

ITAR-TASS learned of the Elders Council's statement in an exclusive interview with Vladimir Novikov, head of the Cossack Troop Union's Information Bureau. The union elders, who are based in St. Petersburg, held a meeting today at which they discussed the Don Cossacks' actions.

According to the Council of Elders, the agreement could aggravate the already-tense situation in Chechnya. Although the elders do not rule out the possibility of signing bilateral documents with Dudayev's regime, they said that such agreements should be signed in the name of all Russian Cossacks, and should be more carefully weighed and written.

Agreement Viewed as 'Legal Blunder'

MM0509132394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Sep 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vadim Ogurtsov: "Cossack Diplomatic Moves"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu—Vladimir Yemelyanov, first deputy head of the Rostov Oblast administration, has held a press conference on the subject of the highly alarming precedent of the "Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation" signed recently between Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic-Ichkeriya, and Nikolay Kozitsyn, ataman of the Don [Cossack] Army.

The cossack community today is characterized not just by signs of revival but also by frankly hasty actions which cause embarrassment to its sober-minded supporters, even alienation, but the most widespread problem is the discrepancy between the cossack leaders' sworn assurances of their observance of the law and their independent life style concealed behind the bogus democracy of loud cries of "anything goes!" Furthermore, recently decisions have been made increasingly often not by the cossack assembly but by the inner sanctum of the supreme command. That is why the atamans of the large villages, okrugs, and even of the board have no idea about some of the decisions that have been made. This is the main reason for the frequent replacement of the ataman boards of the Don Army, the countless different splits deep within it, and the constant succession of extraordinary events which discredit the movement in the eyes of its supporters and the "rest of the population." It is the cossacks who proclaimed the "Don Republic" and intended to use force to rescue cossack criminals locked away in detention centers.

The mission which took Ataman Kozytsin to Ichkeriya recently falls into this category. The cossack atamans "did not graduate" from diplomatic institutions, of course. Even so, their worker-peasant origin does not justify their confusing the rights of a public organization, which is what the Don cossacks now are, with what is the exclusive prerogative of the Russian state. Indeed, how could they assume commitments such as "giving help and support in the event of a threat to security and not allowing armed forces and formations intended for use in the struggle against one of the contracting parties across their territory"? If the cossack movement, I repeat, is nothing more than a social organization at the moment it is not a component of the Federation and cannot have the corresponding power structures, and by arrogating these functions to itself it is flagrantly encroaching on the powers of the Russian president, the government, and the state as a whole. But this is what is happening here: By this action the cossacks are promising support to the foundering Chechen regime or are intending to summon it to their aid if someone acting on the state's behalf asks the cossacks to end the pompously trivial illegal acts with which the present leadership has managed to "glorify itself."

It is interesting that even those politicians from Ichkeriya most experienced in diplomacy chose not to warn the Don cossack leadership against this very serious legal "blunder." Either because in conditions of prolonged isolation even a treaty like this is one of their "state dreams"? Or else they deliberately inveigled the cossacks into this bizarre form of "diplomacy" so that there is one more "front" across the whole of Russia. Or else they wanted to frighten their own opposition by the prospect of possible cossack volunteers entering this trouble spot....

The separate ad hoc diplomatic actions of Ataman Kozitsyn have already received the blessing of Viktor Ratiyev, the supreme ataman of the union of cossack armies of Russia and abroad, in the press but are being sharply rejected in the mass media of the North Caucasus by the atamans of the Don cossacks, the Kuban, and Stavropol. Petr Fedosov, ataman of the Terek Cossack Army, who can see the covert and overt consequences of this document most clearly, has called it a "betrayal of the interests of the revival of the cossack community."

Albert Posidelov, the Rostov Oblast prosecutor, did not wait for written explanations from Ataman Kozitsyn but has stated that the Prosecutor's Office intends to lodge a judicial protest against his actions.

Tatarstan Language Promotion Plan Evokes Fears

MK0209110094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Lev Ambinder: "Kazan Cares About Preserving Language. An Official Who Does Not Know Tatar Is a Bad Official"]

[Text] The Tatar language will be in the curriculum of all schools in Tataria [Tatarstan] in the new school year that began yesterday. This outwardly natural and innocuous decision by the republic's authorities, observers think, threatens serious political upheavals. Studying the Tatar language in all schools is only part of a program that also makes it obligatory for all civil servants to master the Tatar language.

Under the local constitution, Russian and Tatar are the republic's state languages. In fact, however, all official paperwork is in Russian, and knowledge of Tatar leaves much to be desired even among Tatar officials. Therefore the state program to preserve, study, and develop the languages of the peoples of Tataria up to the year 2000 appears quite natural. The measures it calls for include in particular a scientific study of the language; the publishing of a series of dictionaries and other popular science literature; and the equipping of all departments' scientific research institutes, high and higher schools, as well as major libraries in the republic with computers and programs in the two languages. And the Russian-language press approves in principle these efforts by the authorities.

At the same time, many in Kazan believe the program is fraught with restrictions on professions based on one's nationality. It in particular envisions that the Supreme Soviet should already this year compile and approve a list of positions and professions in the national economy subject to certification of proficiency in the two state languages. Valentin Mikhaylov, State Duma deputy, thinks that with the help of the list a new tool of control over Russian- speaking personnel is being created. In the opinion of Vladimir Belyayev, cochairman of the "Soglasie" [Accord] multinational movement, "coercion against skilled adult specialists" may lead to a brain drain from the republic.

As for what officials think, according to Zili Valeyeva, parliament first deputy chairman, one should not fear future examinations: It is a matter of "very elementary knowledge, a minimum vocabulary of two or three hundred words."

Russian-U.S. Totsk Exercises Continue

LD0309120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Belyakov]

[Text] Samara September 3 TASS—No conflict situations have taken place so far in the area of the command and staff exercise at the Totsk training ground. The military exercise is continuing as planned before. A large group of Russian and American journalists, mediators and representatives of ecological organizations are following the exercise. Supporters of Viktor Anpilov organized picketing outside a check point at the entrance to the zone. On Friday they visited the camp of U.S. infantry troops, where they were given comprehensive answers to their questions. Today in the morning a meeting was held at the garrison officers' house between the command and representatives of picketing organizations.

The joint peacekeeping Russian and U.S. troops moved today to the conventional conflict zone. The allied staff of the military exercise was deployed on the territory of the training ground, and communication was established with units of the peacekeeping troops. All preparatory operations should be finished today before 16.00. On Sunday morning the "peacekeeping troops" will enter the "conflict zone", set up check points and begin patrolling, including with the help of helicopters.

Aid Deliveries Rehearsed

LD0609084394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Belyakov]

[Text] Samara September 6 TASS—Joint exercises to deliver humanitarian aid began today at the Totsk testing ground where peacekeeper-94 manoeuvres of Russian and U.S. troops are now under way. The "blue helmets" are to guard convoys with humanitarian cargoes, to ensure their safe arrival at the place of destination, to repulse possible bandit attacks, to ensure technical repairs and refuelling of trucks. They are also practicing actions to set free U.N. patrols captured by terrorists, to render medical aid to wounded civilians, and to help pressmen to discharge their duties.

The exercises are proceeding according to plan. They are being watched by representatives from some ecological organizations of Orenburg region. Their presence at the testing ground is appreciated by the Americans, who regard this as a quite commonplace international practice.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is expected to arrive at the place of the exercises on Wednesday.

Nizhniy Novgorod Considers Autonomous Tax Policy

MK0309104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Spirin under the "Experiment" rubric: "Nizhniy Novgorod Ready for Tax Autonomy"]

[Text] A working group set up by decree of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Governor Boris Nemtsov has completed the drafting of the memorandum on "forming pro-active tax policy in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast and in the Russian Federation," Artem Karazanov, specialist at the oblast economy department's tax policy section, said on 1 September.

The memorandum calls for an autonomous taxation regime to be granted to Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast as an experiment. In this particular case, autonomy means that the oblast will conclude an agreement with the Federation whereby it will pay an agreed amount into the federal budget, while otherwise having its hands completely free.

Under the memorandum, the main principles of the "pro-active tax policy" should be a switch to rent relations in land and real estate taxation, a shift in emphasis from profit tax to property tax, and a partial redistribution of tax revenue sources by cutting the share of taxes levied on enterprises and increasing taxation of individuals.

As for relations with the federal budget, it is planned to reduce the amount to be transferred to the budget by 10-20 percent. The Nizhniy Novgorod governor is expected to sign the memorandum drafted by his experts in mid-September. Subsequently it will be passed for consideration to the State Duma, the Federation Council, and the government.

Sakhalin Against Oblast Transfer of Kuriles

LD0509121194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk September 5 TASS—The Sakhalin regional council made a statement sharply denouncing pronouncements by Governor of the Maritime Territory Yevgeniy Nazdratenko on a need to transfer the Kurile Islands under the jurisdiction of that territory.

Chairman of the regional council Valiula Maksutov stressed in the document sent to the Russian president, government and parliament that Nazdratenko's true aim is not satisfaction of Kurile residents' interests but "a desire to lay hands on a rich fishing area and to raise, thereby, his chances at the coming elections of the territory's governor".

In the opinion of the council, problems of the Kurile archipelago should and can be settled through timely financing of the existing program for the Kuriles' social and economic development up to the year 2000, which was approved by the Russian government.

Besides, the Sakhalin region will never agree to any territorial re-mapping which cannot be made without a consent of a member of the Russian federation.

"We resolutely protest against any attempts to hoodwink again Russian citizens living on the Kuriles, no matter from where they come and insist on the unconditional fulfilment of the Kurile program," the statement stresses.

Khakassia Grain Harvest 'Catastrophic'

LD0609104694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0346 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Sobetskiy]

[Text] Abakan, 6 Sep—Only two per cent of grain crops have been harvested in Khakassia so far. In conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the republic's deputy agriculture minister, Yakov Bodyagin, called the situation catastrophic.

Work in the fields has virtually stopped due to the constant rains which are in their second week and the lack of fuel and lubricants. A credit for the purchase of gasoline and oil was allocated recently, but the money still needs to get to the farms and then the fuel suppliers, and at harvest time, as is well known, every day is expensive.

As Yakov Bodyagin believes, difficult times await Khakassia. There is only sufficient food grain in the republic for three to three and a half months, and much less fodder for livestock raising will be produced than is required.

International Affairs

Official Cited on G-7 Aid for Chernobyl

AU0509164494 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 3-4 Sep 94 p 28

["Jost"-attributed report on interview with Nur Nigmatullin, deputy chief of the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear Energy: "'Chernobyl Not To Shut Before 2005'"]

[Text] Kiev—If it will be possible to implement the program for extending nuclear technology in Ukraine according to plan and if the still unsolved technological problems are settled it will be possible to shut down the last block of the Chernobyl plant in the year 2005. Yet, it is of first priority for Ukraine to cover the enormous energy deficit. After all, this is why many enterprises are not fully operational at the moment, Nur Nigmatullin, deputy chief of the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear Energy, said in an interview with DER STANDARD.

The $200 million that were promised by the G-7 at their recent summit in Naples are only just enough to cover the technological costs for closing down the Chernobyl blocks. "But what will we do after that?"

Moreover, Nigmatullin says that the position of the West is inconsistent. "In St. Petersburg, a reactor that is identical with the Chernobyl type is currently being redeveloped with Western money, while they want to force us to shut down our reactor."

Moreover, promises for funding the completion of the still unfinished new blocks in Ukraine have remained vague. Nigmatullin: "So far we have financed everything ourselves. Three additional blocks are as good as finished, the sixth at Saporoskye on the Dnieper River could be put to the grid at the beginning of 1995." These VVER [water-moderated water-cooled power reactor] 1,000-type reactors are identical with the technology used in Temelin.

Ukraine has submitted an alternative proposal to the West. Two entirely new blocks should be built near Chernobyl with Western capital and know-how. These could be completed in five to six years and then replace the old ones. One block could supply energy to the West, the other would supply electricity for Ukraine. "For us, this would be of great importance, because we could use our qualified personnel from Chernobyl. Otherwise, they would all be enticed away by Russia."

Yet, one grave problem that remains is the disposal of the leaden sarcophagus around the wrecked block of Chernobyl. This must take place simultaneously with the shutdown of the other blocks, but will be much more expensive. Nigmatullin puts the estimated costs of the operation at $1 billion. Ukraine has proposed the founding of an international fund to finance this sensitive project. Altogether, 14 reactor blocks are operating in Ukraine, 10 of which are of the VVER 1,000 type, two of the VVER 440 type, and the remaining two are the graphite reactors of Chernobyl. Nuclear energy currently covers about 30-35 percent of total demand. About 20 percent comes from Chernobyl.

Shokhin-Lead Russian Delegation Holds Talks

Masol Notes Improving Relations

LD0209130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev September 2 TASS—"Russia is regarded by Ukraine as the main partner, with whom we shall develop our relations," Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol told ITAR-TASS immediately after a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, who arrived in Kiev as head of a Russian Government delegation. According to Masol, he and Shokhin discussed a wide range of problems dealing with the development of economic cooperation between Ukraine and Russia.

Shokhin said at the airport that the Russian and Ukrainian heads of government would meet in September to discuss prospects of bilateral relations. They will become a good basis for the forthcoming meeting of presidents of the two countries. A package of economic documents is expected to be signed on the eve of the summit.

Masol and Shokhin were unanimous in their opinion that Russian-Ukrainian relations had become "warmer" of late. The syndrome of a senior and junior partner is gradually disappearing. Both Russia and Ukraine are independent states, and one should proceed from this assumption, they believe.

Shokhin said in this connection: "In the near future we should do our best to convince our nations that we are capable of tackling serious problems. I regard as such the creation of joint enterprises and transnational corporations. I think neither our Ukrainian colleagues, nor Russian citizens will think of the infringement on national sovereignty, if part of the shares of Ukrainian enterprises is turned over to Russian structures, and the other way around. We should act quickly. The preservation of economic ties depends on it. In a year or two they may just disappear, if we do not create adequate economic mechanisms of cooperation quick enough."

Shokhin will meet today Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Valeriy Shmarov, Minister of Economy Roman Shpek and other officials.

17 Agreements Prepared for Signing

LD0209220594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1940 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [No dateline as received]—Seventeen bilateral agreements are virtually ready to be signed within the framework of the summit between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia in early October. Aleksandr Shokhin, leader of the Russian governmental delegation and deputy prime minister and economy minister, told this to journalists on 2 September upon completion of the regular preparatory round of interstate negotiations.

A relevant protocol, signed by Aleksandr Shokhin and Acting Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov, consists of four chapters and contains a list of agreements ready to be initialled, as well as instructions to ministries and departments on issues to be worked up by experts during the nearest month.

Among the prepared agreements there are agreements "On establishing a free trade regime", "On border regions", "On the main principles of trade and economic cooperation in 1995", "On avoiding double taxation", "On cooperation in the field of culture and education", "On the main principles of setting up financial and industrial groups and transnational corporations", "On cooperation in the field of building and operating rocket-space and missile technology", etc.

The sides did not sign any of the documents, leaving this procedure to take place at a meeting between Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and the leaders of the Russian Government within the framework of the Coordinating and Consultative Council of the CIS heads of state, which is planned to take place in Moscow on 9 September.

In the opinion of both sides' representatives, Ukraine's debt for the Russian gas and oil products it received, the division of the assets and liabilities of the former USSR, and the division of the ships and vessels and shore-based infrastructure of the Black Sea Fleet were the most complicated issues during the discussion.

Replying to a question from UNIAN on the division of the former USSR liabilities, Aleksandr Shokhin confirmed the fact that Russia would insist on Ukraine using the former USSR property abroad exceptionally under lease. He explained this by the fact that Russia was paying off the USSR debts in agreement with the Paris Club: In 1993 it paid up to $3 billion; in 1994 almost $5 billion. According to experts, though, Ukraine is the only republic of the former USSR that did not agree to the "zero option" and did not conclude a relevant agreement with Russia.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov, replying to a question from UNIAN on whether there was any progress in issues on the use of the shore-based infrastructure of the Black Sea Fleet, said that several new fundamental approaches were found as far as the lease of the infrastructure was concerned. "Above all, the division should be carried out according to a functional principle: The fleet must receive that part of the land-based infrastructure that ensures its functioning." Second, emphasized Valeriy Shmarov, the leaseholders must direct all the lease payments, ecological compensation, and so on, to local budgets.

In an exclusive interview with UNIAN, Ukraine's Economy Minister Roman Shpek mentioned several priority trends that may soon lead to setting up Russian-Ukrainian transnational corporations and financial and industrial groups [FPH]. According to him, this is the oil and gas industry, machine-building, ship-building, space field, and agricultural produce processing. "This list is open for continuation," emphasized Roman Shpek. "We shall welcome the setting up of corporations and FPH in other fields as well." Shpek is convinced that the aim of the future agreements is to form relations between businesses rather than between the states.

In an exclusive interview with UNIAN, Ukraine's Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk remarked that the Russian side agreed to Ukraine's proposal to conclude a bilateral agreement on the protection of investments, a more specific one as compared to the similar document signed within the framework of the CIS. According to him, an agreement on avoiding double taxation was ready to be signed. Petro Hermanchuk said that "the sides reached full understanding on the issue of setting up transnational corporations and FPH. What remains to do is to persuade businesses that this is a prospect for the future and the only way to obtain privileges in trade."

Shokhin Optimistic About Yeltsin Visit

LD0209131394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1030 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Boris Yeltsin's October visit to Ukraine is to conclude by resolving problems of many years' standing such as, for example, that of the Black Sea Fleet, and signing a package of 20 bilateral agreements within the framework of a large-scale treaty. This was said by Aleksandr Shokhin, Russia's deputy prime minister and economy minister, who is leading a Russian government delegation, told journalists today on his arrival in Kiev. He expressed regret about Russia's failure so far to conclude a treaty with some of its nearest neighbors similar to those it had with most other countries of the world.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Ukraine at the beginning of October, right after he returns from the United States. Aleksandr Shokhin recalled that a meeting between CIS heads of state is to be held 7 October and it is "around that time that the presidents will organize their meeting."

"For Ukraine, the Russian market remains the main one," Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol stated after brief talks with the Russian Government delegation before he flew to Odessa. He added that "we must not lose our markets."

He announced that the new premises of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine will open in Kiev ahead of the presidents' meeting. Its construction is now nearing completion. The Ukrainian prime minister assured journalists that the "older brother" syndrome will be cured at the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations. He denied that there are any issues of principle between the sides, that can not be settled.

Aleksandr Shokhin said that an agreement on transnational corporations is a complex problem. The process of joint flotation, however, "should not be regarded as an attempt on the state sovereignty [of Ukraine]" as it is this, he emphasized, on which "the preservation of economic ties, which can simply vanish within a year if new legal mechanisms of cooperation are not found," depends.

The sides agreed a working schedule ahead of the Russian president's visit to Ukraine. On 9 September, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will hold bilateral negotiations within the framework of a meeting between CIS heads of government to sum up the work by the government delegations.

Shmarov Says Black Sea Fleet Talks Successful

LD0209224694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2110 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 3 Sep—"Ukraine and Russia have found fundamental solutions to the problem of the division of the Black Sea Fleet," Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and acting defense minister of Ukraine, said after talks between the government delegations of Ukraine and Russia that ended here today.

According to Valeriy Shmarov, the sides reached the conclusion that the principles of the division of the fleet should be "functional." The talks' participants think that to resolve the existing problems, Ukraine and Russia should take into account, in the first place, the fact that regardless of political ambitions the fleet should operate in accordance with the military doctrines of the two states. At the same time, the countries should take into account, in the first place, what concerns the fleet itself and what concerns its infrastructure.

Valeriy Shmarov said that the sides came to the conclusion that all the resources of the two states should go to developing local infrastructures. Yevgeniy Saburov, head of the government of Crimea, who took part in the Ukrainian-Russian talks, is also of this opinion.

Russia's Zatulin Calls on Crimea To Compromise

LD0209174694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The chairman of the Russian State Duma's CIS Affairs Committee, Konstantin Zatulin has voiced concern over the confrontation between the president and parliament of Crimea. As he met with the members of the Crimean parliament on September 1, he described that problem as one of the main reasons for his visit to Crimea.

Zatulin called on the lawmakers to do everything in order to rule out a conflict between Ukraine and Russia at a time when their new relations are still in the making.

Zatulin said that after his meetings with Yu. Meshkov and S. Tsekov he arrived at the conclusion that both the Crimean president and parliamentary speaker were not in the mood to fight to the bitter end and were prepared for a compromise.

He also said that before a full-scale Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Ukraine and Russia could be signed, there must be certain guarantees of stability in the Crimea.

He believes such a guarantee can be provided by constitutional or legal relations between Ukraine and the Crimea, which would make it possible to remove the question of territorial integrity from the treaty.

"We would like to prevent the Crimean and Black Sea Fleet cards from ever being played to worsen relations with Ukraine", Zatulin said.

Asked about the Sevastopol city council's decision on the city status Zatulin said that resolution was of purely moral significance. "However, I do not see any ways of translating it into life", he said.

U.S. To Support Ukraine Independence

LD0209191894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The U.S. will pursue a policy aimed at supporting Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller said during his meeting with acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Gennadiy Udovenko in Kiev today. Miller passed on a private message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who congratulated Udovenko on his appointment.

The press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry told Interfax-Ukraine that Christopher in his letter had emphasized the progress in the establishment of large and productive cooperation which the two countries had achieved during the last three years.

Udovenko stressed that Ukraine's policy for strengthening and enhancing relations with the U.S. on the principles of equality and partnership remains unchanged.

Gas Debt Settled With Turkmenistan

LD0509203394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—In accordance with the protocol of talks between government delegations of Ukraine and Turkmenistan on settling the debt for gas supplied to Ukrainian consumers in 1993 and between January-August 1994, Ukraine's debt as of 1 September for gas delivered during this period amounted to 855.07 million U.S. dollars. Of this amount, $275.6 million is to be paid in hard currency and $579.47 million in the form of goods.

To liquidate the debt, the sides have agreed to adopt a coordinated payment plan for gas deliveries: Goods worth $142.5 million will be delivered to Turkmenistan by the "Respublika" corporation in September, $185.2 million in October, $185.24 million in November, and $162.3 million in December. In addition, hard currency amounting to $50 million in September, $58.53 million in October (and a similar payment in November), and $58.52 million in December will be delivered.

In accordance with the protocol, the "Respublika" corporation is to deliver to Turkmenistan between September and December 50,000 tonnes of flour, 250,000 tonnes of grain, 10,000 tonnes of animal fat, and 2,000 tonnes of children's food. "Respublika" is also to guarantee as a matter of priority the delivery of pipes, rolled metal, equipment, and other goods that are required by Turkmenistan's oil industry.

'No Intention' of Cutting Off Russian Gas

LD0209190494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1750 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM Correspondent Ninel Kisilevskaya for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Lvov, 2 Sep—"Ukraine has no intention under any circumstances of switching off the gas in transit across its territory from Russia to Western Europe," Ivan Paltsan, deputy head of the Lvovtransgaz directorate for main gas pipelines, told journalists.

The Ukrgazprom [Ukraine Gas Industry] concern and its sister enterprise, Lvovtransgaz, regard it as their priority task to ensure uninterrupted transit. Moreover, the fuel being accumulated in underground storage vessels in the Carpathian region is undergoing careful biological cleansing and drying at compressor stations before being sent to the consumer. This improves its condition and quality significantly.

National Affairs

Kuchma Meets Crimean Leaders

LD0209193994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, while on a short-term vacation in Crimea, met Yuriy Meshkov, the autonomy's president; Serhiy Tsekov, head of the Crimean Parliament; and Viktor Semenov, chairman of the Sevastopol City Council.

During his conversations with the leaders of Crimea and Sevastopol, Leonid Kuchma reaffirmed his determination to defend the inviolability of the Ukrainian borders. As the guarantor of our state's Constitution, the president will ensure Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Leonid Kuchma again emphasized that the decision by the Sevastopol City Council on granting Russian status to the city has no legal force.

The problems of the Black Sea Fleet division, which the Crimean leaders were accentuating, will be tackled by way of searching for mutually acceptable variants, emphasized the president of Ukraine.

The issue of Crimea's economy was also discussed. Leonid Kuchma reaffirmed his aspiration, which he expressed during the election campaign, to provide the regions with more powers in the spheres of the economy and culture. The president intends to propose that the Supreme Council revise certain enforceable enactments with the aim of vesting more rights in the regions.

Discuss Economy, Borders

LD0209194994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Simferopol September 2 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, currently in the Crimea on a brief vacation, met today Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, Crimean parliament speaker Sergey Tsekov and chairman of the Sevastopol City council Viktor Semyonov to confirm his determination to protect the violability of Ukrainian borders.

Being the guarantor of the Ukrainian Constitution, the president will ensure its territorial integrity and sovereignty, he said.

Kuchma stressed that the resolution of the Sevastopol City council on giving the city a Russian status is juridically invalid. The division of the Black Sea Fleet highlighted by the Crimean leaders will be done on the basis of mutually-acceptable decisions.

The sides also discussed the Crimean economy. Kuchma reaffirmed his decision to give broader powers in the economy and culture to the regions. The president will offer the Ukrainian parliament to revise some legislative acts in order to ensure broader powers of Ukrainian territories.

Government Issues Resolution on Privatization

LD0309082994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2140 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 2 Sep—The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has issued a resolution approving measures to implement the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolution of

29 July 1994 "On improving the mechanism of privatization in Ukraine and stepping up control over its implementation". In the very near future relevant ministries and departments have to submit the following draft resolutions to the Cabinet of Ministers:

- a package of documents on a simultaneous indexation of capital assets and the face value of privatization property certificates;

- a draft concept of creating and developing Ukraine's share market;

- draft enforceable enactments required to ensure the circulation of registered privatization property certificates in the form of cash and mutual convertibility of privatization papers.

Proposals on improving the mechanism of foreign investors' participation in the process of privatization, on the management of the state property in the corporate sector of economy, as well as a draft state program for privatization for 1995 and a number of other documents geared to accelerate privatization, will be submitted to the government.

The government's resolution stipulates that the State Property Fund has to prepare (before it is approved by the Supreme Council of Ukraine) a list of facilities which are not subject to privatization because of their nationwide significance, the signing of purchase and sale contracts and lease agreements to buy the state-owned facilities, and to fulfil, in compliance with the current legislation, all other types of work connected with the privatization of such facilities. Also, the signing of contracts on the purchase and sale of the facilities in the non-production sphere, that are privatized through lease-to-buy, has been terminated. The State Property Fund of Ukraine will form state privatization programs, taking into account the branch, republican (Republic of Crimea) and regional programs for market transformations. The course of the implementation of the resolution will be considered at a sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers in November this year.

First Deputy Premier Samoplavskyy has been charged with carrying out control over the implementation of the resolution.

Crimean Government Accused of Ordering Assassinations

LD0509134894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1245 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Volodymyr Shevyev, a people's deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea, has accused the Crimean Government of ordering political murders Simferopol. On 3 September in a live broadcast on Crimean television, Volodymyr Shevyev, head of the "Reform" deputies group in the Republic of Crimea's parliament, stated that the series of political murders which has shaken the peninsula was ordered "not by criminal groupings, as the citizens of the republic have been told, but by people who form part of the Crimean Government."

Volodymyr Shevyev also said that one day before his death, Mykhaylo Korchylava, the Simferopol entrepreneur and leader of the Christian Liberal Party, entered his office and in the presence of several deputies explained that he had precise information that "they are preparing to execute us." In addition, he even clarified the point by saying that the shootings would be from close range from a TT-type pistol and this is actually how it happened.

According to him, Volodymyr Shevyev also knows the identity of those in the government who are ordering the political assassinations.

Crimean Speaker on Treaty With Ukraine

LD0509193194 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1653 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean parliament Chairman Sergey Tsekov does not rule out the possibility that Kiev will sign a comprehensive treaty with Crimea. He said at a news conference in Simferopol Monday that relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea had been discussed during his talks with the Ukrainian president on September 2.

Tsekov emphasized that signing such a treaty was highly important for Crimea.

He also said that Leonid Kuchma and himself agreed that the Crimean Interior Ministry would handle law and order in Crimea while the nomination of the minister would be cleared with the Ukrainian Interior Ministry.

Tsekov told journalists that he had asked Kuchma to eliminate the position of the Ukrainian president's representative in Crimea. Tsekov said that Kuchma had not said yes or no because this matter was up to the Ukrainian parliament.

Prosecutor Protests 'Illegal' Decision on Sevastopol

LD0509214394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1636 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 5 Sep—A session of the Sevastopol city council on 23 August 1994 adopted an illegal decision "On the status of the city of Sevastopol" deeming the city to have Russian legal status. This is the subject of a protest sent by the Sevastopol city prosecutor to the Sevastopol city council of people's deputies.

The document notes that in keeping with the norms of the Ukraine constitution, the territory of Ukraine is one and indivisible, inviolable and integral. Without the agreement of the whole people and the country, any changes in Ukraine's territory and state borders are not permitted. Deeming Sevastopol to have Russian legal status, the city council thus also deemed that this city belongs territorially to Russia; that is, in violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Apart from this, the Ukrainian Constitution ascribes to the exclusive competence of the Ukrainian Supreme Council the decision of matters concerning the administrative and territorial organization of the country.

Parliament Deputy Urges Referendum on Crimea's Status

LD0509193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament will do everything it can to ensure that the opinion of the Crimean population be taken into account during the conclusion of a comprehensive treaty between Ukraine and Russia, said leader of the Crimean parliament's Russia faction Sergey Nikulin. He believes that a referendum on the status of Crimea must be held.

In May 1992, the Crimean parliament imposed a moratorium on an all-Crimean referendum on the status of Crimea proposed by a number of parties, including the Republican Movement of Crimea, whose members are represented in the ruling Russia bloc.

Nikulin stated that the Republican Movement of Crimea would insist on the implementation of the program due to which Meshkov was elected Crimea' first president and the Russia bloc secured a majority in parliament.

He believes that the current executive authorities of Crimea are oriented to Ukraine and to certain alienation from Russia. He also stated that the Republican Movement of Crimea was ready to support the Crimean president again if he got back to his program.

Kravchuk To Run for Parliament in Ternopol Oblast

MK0209123094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Skachko under the "Ukraine" rubric: "Leonid Kravchuk Coming Back to Big-Time Politics. He Has Always Believed in Independent Ukraine"]

[Text] Speculation has recently mounted in Ukraine that former president Leonid Kravchuk is not going to content himself with the role of chief of the Fund for the Support of Arts, which has been set up specifically for him, but is intent on returning to big-time politics. A famous astrologist, Pavel Globa, has also predicted that Leonid Kravchuk will return to the Ukrainian political scene, albeit in a new capacity.

Finally, the rumors have been confirmed: the former president has been registered as a candidate for parliament in election district N.364 of Ternopol Oblast. He was nominated by workers collectives and registered as a nonpartisan candidate, but a number of national-democratic and national-patriotic organizations both in Galitsia and in Ukraine as a whole, including the country's oldest Ukrainian Republican Party, have already made public their support for his candidacy.

Leonid Kravchuk himself, speaking with his future electorate about his possible activity in parliament, did not deny that he was ready to head a bloc or a faction of the national-patriotic forces in the Supreme Council if elected deputy and chief of such a bloc. Moreover, Leonid Kravchuk said that not only the parliament, but also all of Ukraine needs a union of democratic and patriotic forces that would always be ready to rise in defense of state independence if need be. As Leonid Kravchuk put it, he is always ready "to stand on the breastwork of a trench" whenever his personal involvement is needed to defend the country from a threat which "has always emanated from the outside." In Leonid Kravchuk's view, "it is from Galitsia that the initiative for setting up such a union should come, and an impetus has already is given; what is left is to register it."

When asked by a correspondent of the HOLOS UKRAINY parliamentary newspaper about his patriotic roots, Leonid Kravchuk said that he was striving for Ukraine's independence even as a CPSU member, when in 1989 he proposed at a plenary meeting of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee that a declaration of Ukraine's political and economic independence be passed. In his words, his national enlightenment did not come all of a sudden, but has always been nourished by his peasant origin and the religious environment of his childhood, personal experience, and by what he read about Ukrainian history.

Commenting on Belarus' readiness for a closer integration with Russia, Leonid Kravchuk said: "What happened to Belarus or what would happen to other CIS states did not come as a surprise for me. They have never seriously raised the question of their independence. When I first raised the question about splitting all fleets and dividing the gold and diamond reserves, they all said we do not need that. Sometimes I felt ashamed at the meetings—so much were the heads of state compromising their dignity." Leonid Kravchuk is certain that Russia has one surest way of forging cooperation with the newly independent states—"to make all partners equal and not artificially to create political and economic brakes."

Assessing his electoral defeat and the first steps by the new president, Leonid Kuchma, Kravchuk emphasized that he would not like to see the election outcome as a result of a regional standoff where the west favors Kravchuk and the east backs Kuchma. In the ex- president's words, Leonid Kuchma should act as president of all Ukraine and defend only its interests.

The former president spoke in favor of Leonid Kuchma's edict on combating crime and welcomed radical economic reform and private property. What he strongly disliked in Leonid Kuchma's activity, however, was the latter's statement about giving the Russian language official status.

Elections in the district where the former president is running for office will take place just in a few weeks, and few people have doubts about Kravchuk's winning a parliament seat.

National Democats To Support Kravchuk

LD0509173194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1500 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Ternopol [no dateline as received]—People's deputy Mykola Porovskyy, who is the deputy leader of the Ukrainian Republican Party, at a meeting with the inhabitants of Ternopol on 4 September said: "The representatives of the national democratic forces attach great importance to the fact that Leonid Kravchuk should be elected to the Supreme Council. We hope to unite all centrist forces around him that would resist the Communist, Socialist and other left-wing blocs. Having won the parliamentary rostrum for Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk, we would have the opportunity to continue the policy of building Ukrainian statehood that we followed when Leonid Kravchuk occupied the presidential residence in the Mariyinskyy palace."

Peasant Party Urges Kuchma To Review Policy

WS0509130394 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV
in Ukrainian 30 Aug 94 p 1

["Excerpts" from an appeal of the Ukrainian Peasant Democratic Party to Ukraine's president: "Ukraine's Independence Depends on Its Independence From Russia"]

[Text] Esteemed president!

The Ukrainian Peasant Democratic Party [USDP] believes that over the last three years Russian ruling circles have been pursuing a purposeful policy aimed at destroying Ukrainian independence and statehood, undermining its economy, exhausting its natural resources, and turning Ukraine into a province of the "renewed" Russian empire. They receive aid from the "fifth column" composed of blatant chauvinists living in Ukraine. The openness of Ukrainian borders to free export of material wealth to the near abroad states has facilitated this process. Ukraine has been turned into a transshipment point. The Black Sea Fleet built at the expense of the labor of the Ukrainian rural population, as well as tactical nuclear weapons, virtually used for defense, for which Russia owes some $10 billion to Ukraine have been unreasonably returned to Russia. This fact is shamefully hushed up, but Ukraine's "debt" for Russian gas, standing at $1.5 billion, is being inflated. The former government's subservient policy did not allow customs duties for transiting ammonia, oil, and gas (at least $6 billion per year) across Ukrainian territory to be charged. Some 88 percent of Russian overall export to Europe is being conducted across our territory (this totals $8 billion a year) free of charge.

A cynical nonequivalent exchange of goods between our states has been set: In fact, we pay for Russian goods seven times what the world prices are, therefore, our budget is empty, and the living standard of the Ukrainian people is lower than in Russia.

The press believes that there is an interbank agreement according to which Russia is not responsible for debts of its enterprises to their Ukrainian partners while Ukraine, on the contrary, is responsible for debts of its national enterprises. This gives Russian enterprises a chance to receive Ukrainian goods and not pay for them.

Calculations made by USDP experts put debts amassed by Russia to Ukraine over three recent years at $56 billion.

In the opinion of USDP, the next meeting with Mr. Yeltsin should put an end to the policy of Ukraine's discrimination by Russia. A **state parity** between Ukraine and Russia in all spheres should be introduced. First of all, an **equivalent exchange in goods** should be reestablished. Ukraine should receive compensation for the unpaid customs duties and tactical nuclear weapons. You, Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma], said in one of your preelectoral speeches that within seven years Ukraine could use Russian oil and gas free of charge.

At the same time, USDP proposes to suspend the **nuclear disarmament of Ukraine** and resume it when all the nuclear states, including Russia and the United States, launch their own disarmament.

The meeting of Ukrainian and Russian presidents should become, in the USDP opinion, a turning point in the history of the two states. Much will depend on your toughness, determination, and adherence to principles.

Social Democrats Hold Congress; Expel Senior Members

LD0509170594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1500 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—A UNIAN correspondent learned that following the end of the seventh extraordinary congress of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (SDPU), a closed meeting expelled several leaders of the party opposition of social democrats for actions that harm the party and that are incompatible with the statute. Among those who have been expelled, in particular, is Yuriy Buzduhan, people's deputy of Ukraine and chairman of the parliamentary Commission for Issues of Social Policy and Labor, Former People's Deputy Volodymyr Moskovka, one of the SDPU's former leaders, Yuriy Bauman, and also a group from the SDPU's Lugansk regional organization.

Masol Views Economic Situation, Legislature

WS0609072594 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, by Larysa Zhalovaha, place and date not given: "I Believe That Someone Had To Dot the 'i's. And Kuchma Did So"]

[Text] [Zhalovaha] The three years of Ukraine's independence have passed while you were on vacation. Having returned to work after the dismissal, how would you assess the political and economic results of that period?

[Masol] Politically, the state has made a progress. Ukraine has become an acknowledged independent state. Has it become a law- governed state? I doubt it, although many laws have been passed and are being applied. The number of parties continues to grow, but so far, none of them has enough influence to assume responsibility for forming a government and outlining a political strategy. Economics currently prevails over politics. Unfortunately, our economy has been virtually destroyed over the last three years.

It would be wrong to say that reform is not being carried out in Ukraine. Reform is being implemented, but in an archaic manner and in a wrong direction. There have been fiery disputes about hard currency regulation and the opening of an inter-bank currency exchange. However, this is not the most burning issue currently. Unfortunately being the prime minister, I have to work on creating an elementary legal base in the economy. All problems originate from simple things, such as production costs. As it is, existing directives on the structure of production costs run counter to economic norms. An enterprise manager has the right to add to production costs everything he wants. As a result, all other laws, including those on taxation, are dormant. That is why we will discuss the issue of calculating production costs at the next Council of Ministers session and pass an appropriate government resolution.

[Zhalovaha] Do you not feel the danger of the following scenario—unresolved routine issues may prevent you from dealing with macroeconomic problems, the very economic reform?

[Masol] They will not prevail, because the economy is based on a groundwork. Production costs are the primary element of this groundwork. There has been a lot of talk recently about the growth of inflation and inevitable price increases. I believe that among the Cabinet's major decisions over this period was the one about grain deliveries. Despite the tough situation, we have decided to keep bread prices at the former level.

[Zhalovaha] Is that doable?

[Masol] It is. Some 8.5 million tonnes of grain have already been delivered at a fixed price. Of course, we gave subsidies to producers, but agriculture is subsidized all over the world. We have allocated about 50 trillion karbovantsi [K] from the state budget. However, had we chosen to free prices and to refrain from subsidies, a loaf of bread would now cost K10,000-15,000, and the state budget would have lost K350 billion. Besides, this would have boosted inflation.

[Zhalovaha] Many experts believe, though, that price increases are unavoidable and predict that in December, the U.S. dollar will reach K90,000.

[Masol] Everything will depend on our next moves. In my opinion, commercial and fixed prices should be gradually brought closer. If the fixed exchange rate was abolished today, this, indeed, would bring the price up to K100,000-120,000 to the dollar. This would produce yet another spin of inflation. What would we achieve then? To open a hard currency exchange, we need enough hard currency to sell there. The National Bank does not have it.

[Zhalovaha] What can you say about credits?

[Masol] We cannot maintain production without issuing credits. Our light industries are in a deadlock, for there is no money to buy cotton. Tens of thousands of people are unemployed, deductions to the budget equal zero, while we have to pay unemployment allowances. Is it more advantageous to issue credits, print some money, let people work and the state budget receive deductions, or to halt credits, leave people without jobs, and pay the dole? Which is more frightening?

[Zhalovaha] There is another condition—our products should be competitive and customers should want to buy them.

[Masol] Our products can be sold, and not only on the domestic market. I have always said that I want to see Ukrainian products in Ukrainian stores—Lvov candies, Kiev beverages, and Ukrainian vodka—not just Pepsi Cola or Smirnoff.

[Zhalovaha] This is evident, but a division of labor exists in the world. We cannot produce everything.

[Masol] We do not have to produce everything. I can definitely say that we do not intend to develop a motorcar industry within the next 10 years. Our budget does not allow this, and we will import cars. However, we must have Ukrainian foodstuffs. Since Ukraine used to produce 4,000,000 tonnes of meat, and is currently producing 2,000,000 tonnes, we might be able to export it. To be able to buy things, including oil and gas, we must sell things.

[Zhalovaha] Speaking of oil and gas.... As we know, Russia is reducing the shipment of those products to CIS markets and is going to introduce equal prices for all the states, regardless of their membership in the [CIS] Economic Union. A delegation of the Russian Gazprom company visited Kiev some time ago. Did you reach an agreement?

[Masol] Money, and not the volume of shipments is the problem. Ukraine used to sell meat and sugar to Russia, but our economic relations have been curtailed over the last three years. My recent meetings with Polish and Moldovan prime ministers were aimed at restoring our ties.

[Zhalovaha] What is your attitude toward Ukraine's membership in the Economic Union?

[Masol] My attitude is normal. I have taken part in a conference of the states that are members of the Central European Initiative. These states are going to unite in order to jointly resolve economic problems. Ukraine, too, is an associate member of this organization. That is why my attitude is very balanced and based on the postulate that all the states to some extent depend on others.

[Zhalovaha] Many people believe that, in spite of Acting Prime Minister Zvyahilskyy's drawbacks, among his accomplishments was the curbing of inflation and prices.

[Masol] Let us be impartial, though. Since December, prices have grown by seven to 10 times. After that increase they, indeed, were stable in the last month or two. Most probably, prices cannot grow all the time. After the government suggested that the minimum wage and pension be increased by 300 percent in December, prices went up by 700 to 1,000 percent. As a result, we are witnessing stagnation of enterprises. Let us be impartial. One, two, or three months do not represent the general picture. The fact that prices did not grow in July-August must not be regarded as the Zvyahilskyy government's accomplishment.

[Zhalovaha] When will prices go up again?

[Masol] A rise in prices is only possible after we have opened a hard currency exchange. We have nothing to sell there. Let those who advocate the opening of an inter-bank currency exchange read elementary textbooks and say how much currency Ukraine can sell. To prevent price increases, the minimum of $100 million should be sold daily. We do not have this money. Even Jeffrey Sachs, the ideologist of a market economy, now says that those states have moved closer to the market which supported a fixed rate and not a free one. He also points out that IMF's recommendations should be treated with caution.

[Zhalovaha] You have mentioned numerous mistakes made in our economy over the three years of independence. Has there been anything positive?

[Masol] On the up side, there is the development of a domestic banking system, private property, the appearance of rich people and businessmen, and the drafting of several economic laws. However, there has been too much euphoria, and due to this there has been no coordination among the numerous documents adopted. The main drawback is that all the decisions were passed hastily, without evaluating other options and the possible consequences.

[Zhalovaha] Among the conditions for your consent to assume the post of prime minister you have once mentioned support from a majority of the legislature.

[Masol] Yes.

[Zhalovaha] When the issue of suspending privatization was being discussed, you wrote a letter to the Supreme Council deputies, citing arguments against this measure. Nevertheless, the lawmakers voted for suspending privatization. How did you assess that?

[Masol] Our legislature is still non-professional. A lot of deputies are thinking in small-scale categories and are not ready to think in macroeconomic categories. The fact that 258 lawmakers have come forward with motions to the Cabinet of Ministers requesting financial support for various projects, demonstrates their standpoint and poor understanding of economic processes. I know that each of them has promised something to his electors. However, the legislature is in charge of the budget, and deputies are fully aware that there is no money to spare. Nevertheless, they keep demanding it.

[Zhalovaha] Thus, you did not feel offended that the Supreme Council ignored your appeal and suspended privatization?

[Masol] They also requested that the Cabinet of Ministers bring privatization in line with laws. Indeed, there were mistakes in the pivatization process. I believe that the entire sphere of services, including its infrastructure, should be privatized immediately. All other things can be discussed. However, they resolved to suspend everything. Nevertheless, we have not discontinued privatization of services. This process is going on and will continue. Everything should be done step by step. A common strategy has not been worked out and individual initiative is currently coming to the fore. Or the initiative of deputy groups.

[Zhalovaha] Which model of state structure do you support—the presidential-parliamentary or the parliamentary-presidential?

[Masol] We still have to determine whether we want to choose the French and German way, which can be called parliamentarian—although it has both a president and a prime minister—or the U.S. way. In my opinion, though, we are not ready for the latter variant in view of our economic situation. There will be many disputes and discussions in the parliament with this regard.

[Zhalovaha] Because this will determine Ukraine's further development....

[Masol] Many papers are now trying to incite clashes among the parliament, the president, and the prime minister. This will not be to Ukraine's benefit. If someone works and is aware that this is merely his temporary job, he will not be in high spirits. When Globa [Ukrainian astrologer] predicts that the current prime minister will only retain his post for another couple of days.... Even if this is true, such rumors should not be spread, for they disorganize the government and, under such circumstances, it is hard to maintain discipline. We have elected the president and let us dedicate the next four years to work. However, Globa prefers to write about holding new elections in a year and a half.

[Zhalovaha] Certain predictions should be taken with a grain of salt.

[Masol] That is how I feel.

[Zhalovaha] However, when you say that somebody is going to incite conflicts, this does not mean that such conflicts do not exist....

[Masol] I want to say this: Those who think that they can cause me and Kuchma to quarrel, should forget it. We have determined our standpoints and will continue to work together.

[Zhalovaha] Thus, you were not surprised with presidential edicts on making executive power vertical?

[Masol] I was not surprised. These edicts have been amended, because when the first draft was ready it was discussed in this office of mine. I pointed out that the edict was not suitable, and amendments were introduced. The participants in the meeting of President Kuchma with oblast council chairmen (held at my initiative) approved the draft edict. There are plans to pass a law on the Cabinet of Ministers. Meanwhile, the government continues to work independently.

I believe that someone had to dot the "i's," and Kuchma did so: the Supreme Council chairman is subordinate to the president and works alongside the prime minister.

[Zhalovaha] Do you think that this model is correct?

[Masol] Yes. Otherwise, officials would look at one another anticipating their counterparts' moves. In general, I agree with those who consider the passing of the constitution to be the most pressing issue at this point.

[Zhalovaha] What will be the structure of the government in light of the new law on the Cabinet of Ministers?

[Masol] The government will be an executive body subordinate to the president. Some 90 percent of the bill's provisions have been coordinated with Supreme Council commissions. Yet I, of course, can provide no guarantees that the legislature will not make some other decision in September. I advocate a distinct division of the powers of executive bodies. I cannot agree to the legislature duplicating executive bodies or law-enforcement agencies.

[Zhalovaha] In light of this, what is your attitude toward the forming of independent commissions to investigate certain extremely scandalous cases?

[Masol] This malaise is typical for a developing society, which is still coming to grips with legal norms. The lawmakers are still learning the very things they have to work with. Corruption is very hard to fight in light of the current economic realities. We should move along two paths—fight the Mafia and fight shortages. If there is a plenty of medicine, for instance, it is not easy to profiteering on them.

[Zhalovaha] The former government was often accused of corruption. Are you going to take any preventive measures?

[Masol] I, just like President Kuchma, am not going to conduct a witch hunt. I am not going to see a possible violator of the law in every employee. The syndrome of 1937 [reference to Stalin's "purges"] is, unfortunately, very deep rooted in our mentality. Statesmen are working here. I cannot offend them with suspicion. Everyone is personally responsible for his work.

[Zhalovaha] You have always been considered a tough manager. However, your answers do not go together with this image. I have the impression that you treat your subordinates like a teacher treats his students.

[Masol] The Cabinet of Ministers combines the experienced cadre and young employees. I do not think that they should be "skinned" for mistakes. I am trying to teach them.

I prefer my own control system. First, I read all the major documents and everybody is aware that I check up on them. You may call it strictness, but I want them to acquire the habit of thorough analysis. I must have absolutely reliable information. In the government there is no place for those who cannot provide it.

[Zhalovaha] Has the forming of the government been completed?

[Masol] I think that this is a continuous process.

[Zhalovaha] There is much talk about the nomination of the deputy prime minister for economic reform, if this post is introduced in the government. Incidentally, what do you think about it?

[Masol] Given that we do not have a trained specialist capable of assuming this post, why make some artificial appointments? For some time, I will work independently with my economic services. Then, we will see. One thing I can say—we will have a new deputy prime minister soon. I think that nobody anticipates such a decision.

[Zhalovaha] This is intriguing. It is quite likely that the post will be given to Ihor Mytyukov, National Bank Board deputy chairman. [previous sentence is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI remark]

We began our conversation by assessing the results of the three years of sailing in free waters. Society is more and more sure that if Ukraine's independence is threatened, the danger will primarily lie in the economic sphere. It may happen that all the attributes of the state, including the emblem, the flag, the national anthem, and even borders will remain unchanged. Yet the economic life will entirely be controlled by other states. Many experts, for instance, voice their concern over the expansion of Russian banks' activities in Ukraine. By the way, it is extremely difficult for our banks to make their way to Russia, in view of the tough measures taken in that state to protect domestic capital.

[Masol] Yes, protectionism is commonplace all over the world.

[Zhalovaha] It is protectionism for domestic banks, and not foreign, as in Ukraine. Why is that?

[Masol] This is your own answer to the question about the economic results of the previous three years. This testifies to the "professionalism" of our predecessors.

[Zhalovaha] Still, I want a full answer: Will the new government and you personally protect the national banks?

[Masol] Not only will I protect them; I will also support the creation of a full-fledged financial system. However, the bankers should be more modest and not show off their luxurious offices and Mercedeses.

[Zhalovaha] You have been prime minister for a month and a half. What did you feel when crossing the threshold of this office again?

[Masol] I knew that our economic situation was bad, but I did not expect that it was so bad.

[Zhalovaha] Were you anxious?

[Masol] I stopped being anxious in 1990.

Increase in Coal Price To Boost Inflation

WS0609113794 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 19-25 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Zabirko: "Coal Inflames Prices"]

[Text] Miners again made their point. On 1 August, the Cabinet of Ministers resolved to increase the price for coal by 1.6 times. Currently, the average wholesale price for coal amounts to 573,000 karbovanetses [Krb], and the retail price—to Krb791,000. Everything is logical—everyone wants to live! After all, over the last seven months, Ukraine's mines have only produced 59 million tonnes of coal, meaning 12.5 million tonnes less than was planned. Only two out of the 23 coal amalgamations have met the plan. However, the number of people employed at mines has increased everywhere. Another advance has been made—the productivity of labor has reached the level of 1934. We have approached the level of 1913, with which people liked to compare all labor achievements not long ago.

According to Deputy Prime Minister O. Dyuba, who headed a government commission which spent two days in Donetsk, if the current pace of coal production is maintained, we will have to purchase 15 million tonnes of coal abroad so as not to freeze during the upcoming winter, which will require almost Krb2 trillion. Miners, by demanding more and more subsidies (the Krb 18.9 trillion, which was envisioned by this year's budget, will soon prove not to be enough), are not only devastating the state coffers, but are also condemning all the people to poverty. Even for someone who is not an expert in economics it is quite clear that the current increase in the coal price will raise prices for coke, metal, electricity, machines, and consumer goods. The chain reaction of price hikes will eventually return to the miners who provoked it. We will again be stumbling against the well known stones.

However, the miners have apparently begun to sober, which was confirmed at a briefing held by the government commission. There have been timid talks about unjustified benefits for the miners such as the unreasonable two-month leaves, as a result of which miners actually work only 130 days per year. Finally, it is time to stop playing with irresponsible trade unions, and to legislatively restrict their activities until the economy is stabilized. Meanwhile, the State Coal Committee is proceeding on an already explored path. It has dismissed the "Shakhterskugol" amalgamation manager for "destruction of work." Perhaps it was a justified step.

New ways of resolving the industry's problems are required in the interests of miners themselves. Economic factors must be introduced in their relations with the state; they must be paid for their work, and not for the simple fact that they come to work. Coal is in short supply, and no matter how high its price, there will be no more of it.

Miners Warn Authorities of Consequences

WS0609120194 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 19-25 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Independent Miners' Trade Unions Chairmen Warn"]

[Text] N. Volynko, I. Dyatlov, S. Galyautdinov, V. Myasnikov, and O. Kuptsova, chairmen of the Independent Miners' Trade Unions [NPG] from Donetsk, Makeyevka, Pervomaysk, Pavlograd, and Shakhtersk, have issued a statement addressed to Ukraine's highest authorities.

It is a response to a conference held by Donbass mine directors with the participation of a governmental commission led by Deputy Prime Minister V. Dyuba.

The statement says that instead of resolving the coal industry's problems—liquidating its debt, which has been artificially imposed on it by the government, and revising the system of wages—it was proposed to introduce the Charter of Discipline and completely revise the Law on Protection of Labor.

The NPG chairmen warn that if the aforementioned measures are taken, which can bring about unpredictable consequences, all responsibility will fall on those who are provoking such a situation—the president, the Supreme Council, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, and company directors, who are insisting on such resolutions.

Government Raises Conscripts, Cadets Allowances

LD0509212794 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has issued a resolution to increase, as of 1 September, cash allowances paid to conscripted servicemen, military school cadets, and students of internal affairs schools, military lycees or lycees that offer intensive military training, and military music schools or units.

Air, Antiaircraft Forces To Conduct Joint Exercises

WS0609074994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] In compliance with the training plan of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, a joint command and staff exercise of the Ukrainian Air Forces and Antiaircraft Forces will be conducted on 6-9 September, 1994, under the leadership of Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Ivan Bizhan. Issues related to interaction of the Air Forces and Antiaircraft Forces commands will be studied in the course of this exercise. Administrations of the Air Forces combined units and districts of the Antiaircraft Forces will also be engaged in the training. Training will be conducted at the sites of the units' permanent stationing.

Security Chief on Tasks, Successes

WS0609070594 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 26 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Valeriy Malikov, chief of Ukraine's Security Service, by Vitaliy Bezhnin and Mikhail Kanyuka; place and date not given: "Valeriy Malikov, chairman of Ukraine's Security Service...."]

[Text] Since quite recently, Ukraine's Security Service [SBU] has been headed by 52-year-old Colonel General Valeriy Malikov. An interview with the new chief of this powerful and influential organization opens our series devoted to the Ukrainian intelligence and counterintelligence services.

Valeriy Vasilyevych Malikov was born in the town of Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast. After graduating from the Kharkov University, he was employed by the local KGB department and worked his way up from a junior investigation officer to the SBU deputy chairman.

On 12 July 1994, Ukraine's Supreme Council approved Valeriy Malikov as the SBU chairman. His nomination was supported by 255 votes and opposed by 22. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] What basic problems do you see in the activity of the security service?**

[Malikov] Let us be frank: The specific nature of Ukraine's current stage influences the activity of a complex state body such as the SBU as well. One has to resolve a multitude of questions arising from perestroyka, which are connected not only with the direct "production." Let us look, for example, at the legal side. By adopting the laws on the security service and on the operational investigation, we have created only the foundation on which a new basis is currently being formed for regulating the multi-faceted mechanism of the SBU's organizational, operational, legal, financial, and economic activities.

There are many problems facing the SBU in connection with its involvement in the resolution of difficult tasks dictated by our internal situation: In the first place, this includes combating organized crime and assistance in stabilizing the economic situation. The very nature of our work requires training competent personnel and providing subunits with expensive special equipment. These are not simple tasks given the current circumstances.... **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] In the last few years, has Ukraine been a target for the activities of those foreign special services which earlier were not interested in the Ukrainian SSR?**

[Malikov] We have noted the activity by special services not only from the European region, but also from the far abroad. This is quite natural since the emergence of a new independent state with the population of 52 million had to arouse the interest of the global community, including the interest of intelligence services... **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] In Kiev, as in any other capital city of the world, there are dozens of diplomatic missions and joint venture firms, which, according to the global experience of many years, are used to a certain extent as a "cover" for foreign intelligence services. Whose intelligence services are especially interested in Ukraine? In what are they interested?**

[Malikov] Indeed, today foreign intelligence agents work in Ukraine under diplomatic and other covers. Many of them, let us say so, are known to us. Their intelligence attempts, let us say, are under control, and we can block them if the need arises. I mean not only official measures, but also those called by us operational.

Regarding the activities, it is hard today to single out some specific intelligence service. All of them are rather active, because this is their work. The interests of special services are quite broad. Intelligence services should provide their governments with analytical surveys of some country or other, beginning with political and economic problems as well as defense potential and ending with particulars, that is, constituents of these issues—political orientation of state and political leaders, the economic situation, the development of the defense industry's infrastructure, the development of support system of the army and society as a whole, hotbeds of environmental disasters and their prognoses made by the state are what generates intelligence activity against us.

An intelligence service should inform its government about what kind of a neighbor such a state is: Is it an aggressor or a peace- loving member of the world community? To what extent is it open and honest? Which of its shortcomings can be used for our ends? What are its strategic goals? How to behave toward it—strengthen our defense, keep aloof, not interfere, cooperate, or assist? By what means can we achieve our strategic goals in such a country? **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Do you happen to know what recommendations are being given by foreign intelligence agents operating in Kiev to their governments?**

[Malikov] They report on the importance of Ukraine's stability and territorial integrity for the security of the East European region as a whole. Foreign intelligence services, which operate in Ukraine, closely watch internal political processes, the progress of economic reforms, and the course of our foreign policy. Some special services hunt for our achievements in the sphere of science and technology, and try to organize the "drain" of qualified specialists from Ukraine to their countries. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Valeriy Vasilyevych, can you cite some examples of cooperation of Ukrainian citizens with foreign intelligence services? Who are those people? How have they been punished?**

[Malikov] Yes, unfortunately, there are examples. For example, A. Tkachenko, a former serviceman, has been arrested and sentenced. This young man collected military intelligence on the instructions of a foreign intelligence service. He managed to collect some classified documentation on a military complex for transmittal abroad. We prevented the leakage of this intelligence, and A. Tkachenko was sentenced—under Article 56 part 1 of Ukraine's Criminal Code (state betrayal in the form of espionage)—to eight years of imprisonment in a maximum-security corrective labor camp.

In the same case, on charges of espionage and other crimes, G. Sarkisyan was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. By the way, he is a man without any citizenship.

By the way, we have detected 16 foreign agents and informers lately. Two of them have been punished and are serving their sentences. Operations by the others are, speaking professionally, blocked, and they are under control in the interests of the case. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Does the SBU cooperate with other special services today?**

[Malikov] Ukraine, as any other state, has and protects the sphere of its national interests. Besides, corresponding interests of various countries on a number of issues may either coincide or be very close to each other. These "points of intersection" of Ukraine's interests with the interests of other states, if they are within the competence of special service, are the areas of cooperation of the SBU with similar organizations in foreign countries. In this regard, priority is given to the problems of combating such criminal activity as international terrorism, illicit proliferation of nuclear and conventional weapons, trafficking in narcotics, smuggling, illegal migration....

Contacts with Western special services are being maintained both on the Ukrainian territory and abroad. The advantages from such working meetings are obvious.... **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] As everyone knows, the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR was disbanded in September 1991, thus becoming a basis for creating the Service which is currently headed by you. New name, new tasks.... What about people?**

[Malikov] While creating the SBU, we tried to preserve the intellectual and professional potential of the former KGB of the Ukrainian SSR. This was quite a high potential—not every department possessed such specialists, analysts. We can say today that we have managed to do this. True, we had to part with some people on our own initiative; others left on their own. Following the principle of the renovation of cadres, we tried to make the recruitment of new people logical and consequential. Appointing untrained people to quite specific work could repeat the well-known "commissarship" [komissarstvo] or, as it was later, lead to incompetency and mistakes.

In my opinion, we have managed to avoid the mistakes of some our neighbors from the former socialist camp, who fully disbanded their former security bodies and have not been able to organize their work up to this day. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Many stones have recently been cast at the security officers of postwar generation. What past things do you reject unconditionally?**

[Malikov] It is good that we have not entered the path of total negation and have not swept off positive experience acquired by the former KGB, whose practices included not only repressions and persecutions.... The main thing for us, I repeat, was to preserve the intellectual and professional potential of the former state security bodies, the level of discipline, and the attitude toward the fulfillment of official duties.

While comparing the former KGB with the present SBU, it is necessary to note in the first place that the security bodies of our young state operate today on the basis and within the framework of the "Law on Ukraine's Security Service," which was discussed openly and published in the press after its adoption. As to the KGB, it operated according to the "Statute of the KGB of the USSR," which, incidentally, because of its classified nature, was not known not only to the public, but also to the majority of state security workers. The activity of the special service was regulated not by the law, but by a party-governmental resolution. Therefore, it was not a difficult task to transform this committee into a punitive and repressive service, an obedient instrument in the struggle against dissidents. I will remark that the majority of people in the KGB, just as in entire USSR, were no more than pawns. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Now about the delicate aspect—the existence of the "counterintelligence in counterintelligence"....**

[Malikov] There is a subdepartment in our central apparatus and workers in our oblast departments for dealing with the matters of our own security. By the way, analogous subdepartments are in every foreign special service.

I think that there is no need to expand on their exigency. The state should be sure that it commended its secrets to decent people, and that its interests are being protected by individuals dedicated to the Ukrainian nation. Before joining our service, every candidate should submit, in written form, a consent for the verification of his fitness for this job. Workers of the SBU show an understanding attitude toward it, since a decent man has no reason for being uneasy on this account. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Answering a question from People's Deputy Stepanenko in the parliament as to why all blameworthy people are not being made answerable today, you touched upon the subject of organized crime and corruption....**

[Malikov] The point here is this: SBU workers alone have arrested and brought to trial 400 people in 900 criminal cases, including 110 officials. However, by now, we are not always able to bring economic offenders to the court. For this reason, we have raised the question of changing Ukraine's Code of Criminal Procedure.

An analysis of over 1,300 criminal cases and 700 investigations, which have been, or are currently being conducted by the SBU, testifies to the fact that these offenses are largely committed in banking and credit-and-finance systems. These systems are actively utilized by the criminal world to its own benefit. We have already detected and suppressed the illegal activities of 22 organized criminal groups and associated corrupted officials. By this we have prevented the state economy from incurring losses in the amount of over 560 billion karbovanetses. We have also suppressed the attempts—on the part of some nonstate structures and foreign businessmen with shady reputations—to involve the state in risky credit operations abroad. Losses could have amounted to billions of dollars.

The security service alone, and in cooperation with other law enforcement bodies, has recently made liable a number of officials who added to the worsening of economic crises in our state. Thus, we have concluded our investigations in the criminal cases of Steshenko, former deputy minister of external economic relations; Myroshnychenko, former department head; Pohrebnyak and Kosholap, former department deputy heads; and Kalha; former director of the Fund for Developing External Economic Relations. In total, seven high officials of the Ministry of External Economic Relations and deputy director of the "Proksen" small enterprise, Vyshnevskyy, will be charged in this criminal case.

Criminal proceedings will also be instituted against Korobenko, former head of the main administration of the former Ministry of Coal Industry; Lakhmanyuk, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Material Resources; and Boyko, deputy head of the department of capital construction at the Ministry of Economy. The last two officials were arrested for bribes and mediation in bribes which they received from commercial interests. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Judging by all appearances, this list may easily be continued...**

[Malikov] I can recall more names of arrested high officials. For example, the following people were condemned for bribery, smuggling, and larceny of state property: A. Fadeyev, head of the State Committee for Customs Administration; Ye. Terkhov, head of the Zaporizhzhya Custom House (by the way, our investigation brought to trial 25 dishonest workers of this Custom House); Ye. Karchmarchyk, chief of the Kiev Military District construction administration; A. Tyshakov, director of the Chernihiv Meat Processing Plant; M. Mushtay, director of the "Tsentrolit" company in Sumy; and A. Panashchatenko, director of the Mineral Waters Factory in Myrhorod... **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Vadym Vadymovych, it is no secret that there are also many selfish people in law enforcement bodies....**

[Malikov] Unfortunately, corruption has not bypassed these bodies either. Only over the last 18 months, 16 militia workers were punished for criminal offenses, including bribery by Yu. Fedorovych, chief of the Main Directorate of Internal Affairs department of visas and registrations in Kiev Oblast.

The prosecutor's offices are conducting examinations of criminal cases instigated by the SBU against A. Kozinets, deputy chief of Kherson Oblast Department of Internal Affairs; A. Brynza, senior investigator of the same department; as well as S. Vorozheyev, chief of the investigation section of the Konstantinov City Department of Internal Affairs in Donetsk Oblast, and S. Kovalenko, senior investigator of the Donetsk Oblast Department of Internal Affairs, who, by abusing their authority, were receiving bribes from persons under investigation. Unfortunately, our family has its own black sheep, too. We have brought to trial three SBU workers for wrongful acts.

There are materials gathered by the SBU on graft and crimes by a number of other officials. The verification of these materials requires some time, and it is to early to call names, but I can say the following: The SBU is taking the most active part in the unfolding struggle against crime. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] One of the directions in SBU activities is economic intelligence and counterintelligence service....**

[Malikov] It is one of the priorities today. It is enough to say that the documents and economic data procured by our workers helped over 100 enterprises and institutions sign economically advantageous foreign contracts worth $250 million. We have also prevented the signing of 110 unprofitable contracts worth of $897 million and 7.1 billion karbovanetses. This is far from being a complete list of our achievements. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] How reliable is the control by special services over the safety of nuclear materials and nuclear power plants?**

[Malikov] Nuclear terrorism has already become a fact. There were cases of assaults at nuclear sites in the United States. The last of such incidents occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in February 1993. Earlier, attempts to sabotage nuclear power plants were suppressed in France. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Obviously, something similar is theoretically possible at Ukraine's nuclear power plants?**

[Malikov] Of course, such a possibility cannot be excluded in theory. First, such a possibility is being enhanced by the porosity of our borders as well as the spread of interethnic and social conflicts in some CIS countries. Second, it should be taken into account that the negative experience, which was acquired abroad, can be adopted by criminal circles in our country. In 1991 through 1993, CIS countries, including Ukraine, suffered anonymous provocative threats to blow up nuclear power plants by some extremist groups. There were anonymous letters sent to the managers of the Khmelnitskaya and former Krymskaya nuclear power plants with threats of physical violence in the event of continuing their construction and exploitation.

In accordance with the legislation in force, the counterintelligence protection of strategic facilities, including nuclear power plants, is the SBU's responsibility. The SBU has to do everything in order to prevent any mishap. In May 1993, Ukraine joined the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. Our concept of the physical protection of nuclear materials was worked out according to the provisions of this convention and with the use of international experience; the same can be said about the state system for implementing this concept. The SBU possesses certain experience in this sphere and actively participates in the resolution of existing problems. Thus, under an initiative by the SBU and the State Committee for Nuclear and Radioactive Security, Ukraine's president issued an edict on the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities in Ukraine, which determines the responsibility of institutions concerned with these problems. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Are the stories about free transfer of nuclear materials through our borders substantiated?**

[Malikov] Indeed, the volume of nuclear materials and substances on the European black market significantly increased during the last several year. Naturally, we share the anxiety of Western community about the fact that a significant amount of such materials is being transferred there from CIS countries. An analysis of information acquired by us allows us to make a conclusion about the possibility of crimes in Ukraine, which are connected with the use of such materials, including their illicit transit. Together with competent bodies from the near abroad, we have suppressed several attempts to smuggle such materials abroad by international groups. It is extremely necessary to strengthen cooperation with our Western partners in order to suppress such crimes. This is a matter of interest both for us and competent bodies in Western countries. **[KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Addressing the Supreme Council session, you said that the process of creating Ukraine's security bodies has not been completed yet...**

[Malikov] It is necessary to urgently complete the concept of national security and determine the place and role of special services in the system of state authorities. The sweeping increase of organized crime and dangerous trends in our economy and social and political life—which in their destructive power can prove to be even more disastrous for national security than external threats—dictate the need for reforming some SBU structures, in the first place, those concerned with the dealings with internal threats. I see the SBU as one of the important stabilizing factors in the life of our society, as a special service which works effectively with state support. Under such conditions, the SBU will be independent from the influence of political situation, any parties, or trends.

Lvov Mayor Views Jobs, City Development

WS0209141794 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 25-31 Aug 94 p A4

[Interview with Lvov Mayor Vasyl Kuybida, by Lyubko Petrenko and Dzvinka Novakivska; place and date not given: "Vasyl Kuybida Has Become a Choirmaster. Earlier, He Became Lvov Mayor"]

[Text] "I have to act as a cowboy, rushing from side to side," complained newly elected Lvov Mayor Vasyl Kuybida to POST-POSTUP reporters who came to interview him on his new job. According to him, pressing routine issues consume most of his time, and there is no chance to get down to the drafting of conceptual projects. Yet this is just the beginning of Kuybida's rodeo. A good mayor must stay on horseback. Meanwhile, nobody found it easy to temper this untamed mustang—Lvov.

[POST-POSTUP] How do you plan to cooperate with the coalition of the Rukh, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the "New Wave," and the Ukrainian Republican Party, who, in fact, staged your election campaign?

[Kuybida] I am responsible for everything that is going on in the city, as well as for the work of the City Council and the Executive Committee. I have the right to select candidates proposed by coalition members. I can either accept or reject them. Having confidence in the coalitions I will, naturally, accept their candidates.

[POST-POSTUP] If you reject a candidate suggested by one of the parties, will this not produce a conflict within the council? They may attempt to bump you off the saddle....

[Kuybida] I think that such things cannot separate intelligent people, given that we united not in order to find jobs for our friends, but to carry out reform in Lvov. If they propose a true expert who, in my opinion, will cope with work in the executive committee, I will certainly accept their proposal.

[POST-POSTUP] How did the new structure of the executive committee develop?

[Kuybida] At the beginning of the election campaign, an idea was voiced and was immediately backed by the people, about the need to reduce the number of deputy mayors. I had nothing left to do but implement it. That is why I have limited the number of deputies to three—Pavlo Kachur, responsible for city districts; Volodymyr Bilous, who supervises the construction and municipal departments; and Bohdan Stelmakh, who is in charge of humanitarian issues.

A mayor is in charge of the entire city but it is beyond one person's powers to be responsible for everything. I must be responsible, first and foremost, for the economic policy pursued in the city, while every deputy mayor, depending on his post, has his own official duties. The city's number one official is rather a politician, a choirmaster. The choir comprises professionals who should be directly involved in implementing our political plans. If in a choir somebody sings a wrong part, the choirmaster, of course, is to blame. However, if somebody sings out of tune, it is his own fault.

[POST-POSTUP] How are you going to engage foreign investments and Ukraine's private capital in serving the city?

[Kuybida] In the near future, I would like to meet with our entrepreneurs to discuss the issues of mutual assistance. On our part, we can grant preferences to these enterprises.

[POST-POSTUP] Will you agree to sign contracts with commercial structures on the long-term lease of buildings that are unfit for further use (and perhaps permit their reconstruction)?

[POST-POSTUP] I am not a gardener's dog. These things, however, should be in line with the long-term plan for the city's development. If businessmen manage to put these buildings in good shape, the city will only gain from this.

[POST-POSTUP] We know that you used to work on the general plan of Lvov's development at the State Institute for City Design. The plan envisioned the development of Lvov as an industrial center. Do you believe that this policy is still acceptable?

[Kuybida] Our city was being transformed into an industrial giant since the 1950's, and as late as the 1990's we came to realize the erroneous nature of this decision. Then, in January 1993, the city council resolved to discontinue the construction of industrial facilities in Lvov. The city must not grow any further.

[POST-POSTUP] What is your attitude toward the idea of a technopolis?

[Kuybida] This belongs to the problems of the suburban zone, which will not be resolved soon. That is why I do not want to promise anything to Lvov residents at this point.

[POST-POSTUP] Is there any good news about Lvov's old sensitive point—transportation?

[Kuybida] We have recently held consultations with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. We were promised money for the development of the city's transportation system. We are also encouraging the opening of private bus routes. However, we have no money currently to invest in the construction of a subway.

[POST-POSTUP] What is your attitude toward the formation of a free economic zone in Lvov?

[Kuybida] I prefer the idea voiced by Viktor Pynzenyk—the formation of a free economic zone within the limits of entire Ukraine.

[POST-POSTUP] How and when do you expect the renewal of the privatization process in Lvov, which was suspended by your predecessor in May 1994?

[Kuybida] In accordance with the presidential edict and the Council of Ministers resolution, a single privatization system is being set up, and the State Property Fund is to establish its privatization bodies in every city. If this, indeed, happens, we will have to resolve the issue of the existing privatization directorate. If some duties are imposed on us, too, we will begin operating not earlier than the fall. However, even if the State Property Fund will be the sole body in charge of privatization in Lvov, they will have to coordinate with us as to which facilities to privatize.

[POST-POSTUP] Which way of privatization do you prefer?

[Kuybida] I give preference to two ways—auctions, which are a rational way to find an owner, and the purchasing of an enterprise by its staff, as a means of alleviating social tension.

Belarus

Lukashenka Interview: 'I Will Not Be A Dictator'

MM0209160694 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 94 Weekend Edition p 7

["Extract" from interview with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by Andrey Karaulov for the "Moment of Truth" TV program, to be screened at 2200 hours on Monday 5 September on the "Rossiya" channel; date and place of interview not given; from the "Television and Radio Schedule 5 Through 11 September" feature: "Alyaksandr Lukashenka: I Will Not Be a Dictator. And That Is The Truth. Off-the-Record Questions to the President of Belorussia"]

[Text] The majority of television viewers, who never miss a single edition of Andrey Karaulov's program "Moment of Truth," have mixed feelings about it—there is an unequivocal interest in the program, the presenter, and his heroes, but attitudes toward them are far from unequivocal. This comes about because, in the course of almost an hour, a figure famous in politics, economics, business, or art either reinforces or destroys his own reputation. This is what the presenter wants, and this is what actually happens.

An interesting detail: The presenter, conducting a free, unfettered, but inwardly tense conversation with his interlocutors, gives them the chance to express themselves fully. There is three or four times as much material cut out than is subsequently broadcast.

In this situation, cooperation between the television camera crew and a newspaper, which can present both the written text and its creators significantly more broadly and in greater detail, appears perfectly natural and creatively expedient.

Today, A. Karaulov has given our readers the chance several days before the broadcast to take a look at an extract from the interview with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belorussia [Belarus].

Undoubtedly, this program will prompt great interest, if only because Russia's citizens still know very little about the personality of the Belorussian president. It is extremely difficult to get an interview with him. "Moment of Truth" managed to do this. So, here goes:

[Karaulov] Millions of people congratulate you on your election as Belorussia's first president, and on your 40th birthday.

[Lukashenka] Thank you. In which case, Andrey Viktorovich, I say: What are you congratulating me on? Obviously, not everybody who is offering their congratulations understands what it is to be president.

[Karaulov] I would very much like our conversation today to be man to man, so to speak, off the record. And my first question is not an official one, it is this: What do you think—which scum thought up the idea that you are a second Zhirinovskiy?

[Lukashenka] I do not think it was the Russian newspapers. It was ours. This originates in Belorussia.

[Karaulov] Indeed, I remember how, two days before the second round of the presidential elections, a certain stewardess appeared on the screens of Belorussian televisions and she, under the caption "I Cannot Remain Silent," told the public that, two years previously, on a plane, you stole a hair-drier from her. And something else.

[Lukashenka] My son says: "So which comb did you steal?" And I immediately began to receive telephone calls: "So, you couldn't even buy your own candy?" Nobody really understood what I had "stolen."

[Karaulov] But your opponents understood that it was this stewardess who actually brought you to power in the upshot. That they had cleared the way for you with this foolishness.

[Lukashenka] They ended up in the type of situation where they could do nothing right. Why? Because everything that had happened prior to this did not allow them to remain in power any longer. While in power, they grew complacent, and they thought that things would indeed be the way they dreamed them up. And that if you go on lashing out through such methods, then eventually everything would come crashing down. Lukashenka—down, everyone around him—down. But it happened the other way around.

[Karaulov] Russian journalists described how, after the first round of the presidential elections when your victory was obvious, they could not get through to any Council of Ministers staffers. All the functionaries were severely inebriated.

[Lukashenka] You know, these articles are now in the hands of the presidential Committee for the Fight Against Corruption. It was set up and is led by people who have always been with me. You may ask why there, and not with the courts. But then again, it was a feature of everything I did as chairman of the commission that it was targeted against the authorities, against the leadership, the top people. But they did everything to distort what the commission was doing and what it was putting together. There was nothing more we could do. We did not have enough power. We fought as far as we could. People knew our team during the parliamentary elections. And they knew Lukashenka as a man sincerely trying to fight corruption. And I did not have to put much emphasis on this during the election campaign. Nonetheless, the mass media made out that, during the election battle, Lukashenka jumped on the corruption hobby-horse and galloped into the presidential seat.

Following victory at the elections themselves, I had a meeting with Pavel Pavlovich Kozlovskiy (who was defense minister at the time.) He spent a long time explaining himself to me, as president, and then he declared: "Alyaksandr Hryhoryavich, I will take it as my due even if, with justifiable grounds, you put me in prison." I promised him: The only measures I am undertaking are legal ones. Once again, I am commissioning a group of honest and decent people—you can even name your own people, and I will include them in the group—and we are going to study all the materials concerning Colonel General Kozlovskiy, minister of defense.

...There was a pause, complete silence. Nobody spoke. Kozlovskiy: "Agreed." But I noticed that he had suddenly broken into a sweat. It is more than likely that in this matter, Lukashenka was right, then and now. We started to examine these materials over again so that, God forbid, not a hair of the man's head should be harmed unlawfully.

[Karaulov] Do people want blood?

[Lukashenka] Yes, they do. But my job now is to pacify society. Why are we in such a hurry?

[Karaulov] And what do you think will become of Kebich, Alyaksandr Hryhoryavich?

[Lukashenka] Citizen Kebich will be subject to the law, just like any other citizen of the Republic of Belorussia. But you know, what fate has dealt him, particularly in the recent elections, is a blow.

[Karaulov] Alyaksandr Hryhoryavich, when you were elected president our Russian newspapers began to fear that you might go through the land of Belorussia like a red-hot poker. After all, you are a tough guy, Alyaksandr Hryhoryavich.

[Lukashenka] Yes, I am tough, you are right—but I am not cruel. That is a banner that may be taken up by any politician, especially an unsuccessful one, and I may yet prove unsuccessful, you know. But I am aware of this, both as a man and a president now, in possession of a fair degree of power, and I must avoid this.

[Karaulov] So, as you see it, you will not turn into a dictator?

[Lukashenka] I will not be a dictator, and that is the truth.

[Karaulov] It seems to me that you had to think about that, is this so?

[Lukashenka] Let us say, given the desire and the right combination of circumstances, could a dictator emerge or not? That is one question. Another question is—will I be a dictator, or not? I simply will not be a dictator, do you understand?

[Karaulov] You would rather leave?

[Lukashenka] Yes.

[Karaulov] Alyaksandr Hryhoryavich, are you a democrat, what do you think?

[Lukashenka] You know, if I were to reply to this question precisely—demos, meaning people, and kratos meaning power—then of course, I am the biggest possible democrat, particularly now. I represent power, I received it from the people (82 percent, to be precise.) But according to the concept of democracy as many people here in Belorussia understand it—and maybe in Russia too—then of course, how could you call me a democrat?

I cannot in all sincerity tell you what I have already learned as president. Everything in our society is so corrupt and distorted that at times, sitting in my office, I weep with shame. You realize that you have fallen into an environment which is completely alien to you. The people do not understand this. Today they demand of me: Come on, Lukashenka, get on with it. I am finely attuned to society. At times, you stand at some kind of turning point and you understand that this is the path you should take, yet you cannot take this honest path.

[Karaulov] Why?

[Lukashenka] Because, a month from now, not immediately, you will lead your society, and the 82 percent, into an even worse situation.

[Karaulov] Your past can be seen in various ways. Alyaksandr Lukashenka's ascent of Olympus was phenomenal. Company political instructor; secretary of the Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] committee at the Mogilev City Food Trade Organization; secretary of the rayon "Znaniye" [Knowledge] society in the city of Shilov, Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. Now you are president. I am not interested in yesterday's Lukashenka, but in the Lukashenka of today. You are beginning by deregulating prices for bread, milk, and meat—that is, you are immediately undertaking extremely unpopular measures, you are walking a tightrope. Do you intend to go even further along this tightrope?

[Lukashenka] Imagine, Andrey Viktorovich, banal as it may sound, that you are a surgeon. You have put on your gloves, your hands are washed, and everybody is standing around waiting. Before you is the patient. In my view, you will not even stop to ask which road you will take.

[Karaulov] I would not ask, because Yegor Timurovich Gaydar said much the same thing in 1992.

[Lukashenka] He said that?

[Karaulov] Absolutely, Alyaksandr Hryhoryavich, almost word for word. Yegor Timurovich used the illustration of the doctor too. But today, Lukashenka is saying: Privatization must be suspended, because it has not gone the way it should. What do you mean by this?

[Lukashenka] This is a second question, Andrey Viktorovich. I still haven't finished with the first. Since Yegor Timurovich used the same illustration, I will discard it so as to avoid a repetition. I want to say that the situation is this: Either to live within one's means until the end of the year and to eat expensive bread, which incidentally is not actually that expensive, or to be without bread by 1 January. It is the same with milk and dairy produce. Is there a choice? There is no choice. Therefore, forgetting the surgeon, and talking instead about the situation which is forming in the republic, I was forced to take this path. But ultimately, people are waiting to see: What will happen next, surely he is not going to deceive us? I am taking this opportunity to say: Never!

[Karaulov] It is easy for us to talk now, because I can raise no objections—you have only just arrived. Forgive me, but we have all heard so much talk, that even today's presidential utterances will appear to us journalists as mere words. Can you back them up with accounts, economic programs, and tactics?

[Lukashenka] To be absolutely sincere and open....

[Karaulov] Of course.

[Lukashenka] Andrey Viktorovich, this program will be specific: Who must do what and by when. And at the recent session of the Cabinet of Ministers, I invited them to my office and I said: You know, there are more than enough theoretical treatises. We are sick of these programs.... But nobody was responsible. At the bottom, on the last page—if there is room, otherwise we will add another one—all the names of those who worked on it, those who devised it, and those who will be responsible for this program will appear. If the program fails...

[Karaulov] Prison?

[Lukashenka] At the very least.

Commission To Inspect Alleged Pro-Kebich Institute

WS0609082794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] According to sources closely connected with the president of Belarus, a commission for inspecting the activities of the state analytical institute "Belinfarmprohnoz" has been formed. "Belinfarmprohnoz" is well-known for its active participation in the election campaign of former Council of Ministers Chairman Vyacheslav Kebich. The institute disseminated information about the results of their public opinion polls, according to which Kebich firmly held top ranking in popularity surveys, registering popularity levels far higher than the other presidential hopefuls. The presidential election returns, however, proved the erroneous nature of those sociological polls. Ivan Antanovich, head of the institute, was also one of the ideologists of Kebich's election campaign. The commission for inspecting the activities of the institute will be headed by Alyaksandr Feduta, chief of the Board for Public and Political Information at the President's Administration.

Concern Over 'Anti-Belarusian' Tone of Russian Press

LD0509201094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Valeriy Tsepkalo, Belarusian first deputy foreign minister, expressed concern over numerous publications in the Russian press which, in his words, openly discredit Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

He told INTERFAX that he had articles in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of August 31 and September 1 and a report in IZVESTIYA of September 3 in mind.

Tsepkalo agreed that leader's economic or political activities could be criticized but said that criticism of a person outside his actions was "disgusting."

He was especially worried that these publications were outspokenly anti-Belarusian and contained outrageous remarks about the entire Belarusian nation and its culture.

He did not think that this kind of publications would help even maintain the age-old relations between the two peoples.

Army To Be Reduced to 90,000 by Next Year

LD0309221994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 3 Sep 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] The planned reduction of armed defense forces continues in Belarus. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, over 200,000 former Soviet soldiers and officers remained in the republic. By the beginning of next year, there will only be about 90,000 people in the Belarus Army, of which land forces will account for 45,000, the air force—17,000, and air defense 12,000 servicemen. These figures were given at a press conference by Colonel General Anatol Kastanka, the republic's defense minister.

President Issues Edict Dismissing 2 KGB Officers

WS0609081294 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Belarusian 1 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Ivan Salahub: "KGB Faces Regular Staff Changes"]

[Text] On 31 August 1994, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed edict No. 80 "On Dismissing V. Artsikaw and I. Minko From Their Posts and Placing Them at the Disposal of the Chairman of the Belarusian Committee for State Security."

Before the edict was issued, Valeryy Artsikaw occupied the post of first deputy chairman of the Belarusian Committee for State Security [KGB] and Ivan Minko was KGB deputy chairman.

Commander Fired After Discovery of Border Tunnel

MM0609094594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Olga Yegorova: "Underground Border Crossing"]

[Text] Minsk—This had never happened before in the history of Belorussia [Belarus]. It smacked of the middle ages—there is no other way of putting it. An underground passage on the border with Poland! They walked and ran through—and nobody chased them! Our border guards did not even notice how 67 (!) citizens of Asian countries, having paid their guides in dollars, tunneled under the border fortifications and came out safely in Poland.

General Bocharov, commander of the border guards, learned about the incident from the Poles. And the president of the republic, needless to say, heard about it from Gen. Bocharov, who was immediately relieved of his position.

President Orders Staffing Cuts, Molds Economic Plan

MK0209112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko from Minsk: "A Purge Has Begun in the Enterprise Directors Corps. President Lukashenka Places a Bet on Tough Administration"]

[Excerpts] On 1 September the directors of all state industrial enterprises in Belorussia [Belarus] are to sign new contracts with the state authorizing them to run their enterprises. This kind of purge of the directors corps will continue for one month and, as presidential staffers believe, will help drastically to rotate managerial cadres and improve the economic situation.

The president is beginning to tighten up executive discipline. [passage omitted] Local executive authorities have received tough orders from the president: to downsize the administrative apparatus in rayon executive committees by 30 percent and in oblast executive committees by half. The Cabinet of Ministers has set an example, cutting its staff 30 percent compared to the previous government.

The president is personally overseeing the preparation of an "economic emergency program which is to be approved by parliament" at the end of the month. The conditions set before the program developers boil down to the proposition that people's living standards must not decline in the process of planned economic reforms, while inflation must be reined in as early as possible. [passage omitted]

Having declared himself against privatization of land, Alyaksandr Lukashenka at the same time warned agricultural enterprise directors that the time of unlimited nonrepayable credits has ended. Furthermore, Lukashenka has banned state enterprises as of 1 September from "arbitrarily raising prices for their products," and recommended that they overcome their difficulties by cutting production costs. [passage omitted]

Managers of State-Run Companies Required To Sign Contracts

WS0209122994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] We have received the text of the Belarusian president's edict on signing contracts with managers of state-run enterprises, amalgamations, organizations, and institutions. The Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers was tasked with developing and approving within 10 days a statute on procedures and conditions for concluding contracts with managers of state-run enterprises, amalgamations, organizations, and institutions. The contract's major provisions include such indicators of the enterprise's good performance as the growth of production and profits, and dependence of the manager's salary on the volume and efficiency of production and on wages of the workers. The contract will also specify rights and responsibilities of a state institution entitled to manage property of the enterprise, as well as rights and responsibilities of managers of state enterprises. As a mandatory condition, the contract will require enterprise managers to disclose their income statements. Contracts previously concluded by managers who refuse to prolong them in accordance with provisions included in the edict will be canceled.

Lukashenka Attacks Current Privatization Practice

LD0309143894 Minsk Radiostantsyya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1800 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Privatization in Belarus has not established itself. Society has not accepted it in its current shape. Privatization has turned into grabbing. This is the description given to the process of privatization in Belarus by the president of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, during a TV program. As for issuing shares of enterprises, Alyaksandr Lukashenka stressed in the same TV program that the value of all the floated enterprises has been underestimated, to say the least.

The presidential administration is now analyzing the situation around that process because, as the facts show, not a single floated enterprise of the republic has increased production. A director has become a prince; he today has two Mercedes cars and five security cars. The president of the republic is not guarded as much as a director. And for what? The director has today forgotten the way to the shop where people go. He goes to hard currency shops only.

The facts show that not a single enterprise has become efficient. Privatization for the sake of privatization, floating for the sake of floating - I cannot agree to that, Alyaksandr Lukashenka stressed.

President Meets With Top Officials on Debt Repayment

WS0609081194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] President of the Republic of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka has held a meeting with representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Security Council to consider the problem of Belarus' debts. President Lukashenka, in particular, declared that a further increase in the foreign debt may threaten the sovereignty of Belarus. Speaking about Belarus' debts, the president was also referring to the debts for natural gas supplies. As is generally known, the Russian joint-stock company "Gazprom" has threatened Belarus with a 30-percent reduction in gas supplies, demanding full payment for gas consumed by Belarus in August, and a 30-percent payment on previous debts (approximately 300 billion rubles). According to information received from the Belarusian concern for fuel and gas supplies, "Belpalivhaz," as of 5 September, the Republic had paid off 70 percent of its debt for gas consumed in August. As for the total gas debt, the Belarusian state enterprise for gas transportation and supplies has not started making payments. In spite of this, gas supplies have remained at their previous levels. However, according to Vasil Palyakow, chief of the department for fuel provision and marketing at "Belpalivhaz," this should not be regarded as a renunciation by "Gazprom" of its demands.

Notice should be taken that the current debts for the clearing supplies of raw materials and goods, including natural gas, remain unregistered. These debts amount to around $500 million. The registered debts of the Republic to the Russian Federation amount to $365 million. The total Belarusian debt to foreign countries and international financial organizations is approximately $1.4 billion.

Anticrisis Program To Include 'Multifold' Price Hikes

[illegible] Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] According to information received by BELAPAN, the anticrisis program which President Lukashenka should make public at the September session of the Supreme Soviet will include a multifold increase in quite a number of tariffs and prices. For instance, for September 1994, it is envisaged that rents will increase by 21 times, rates for central heating and hot water supplies—by 100 times, for cold water supplies and sewage—by 50 times, for natural gas—by 13.5 times, for electricity and public transportation—by eight times. The program also envisages the establishment of stricter controls over wage funds, the abolition of preferential credits for housing construction and purchases of consumer goods, and the liberalization of prices for all goods without exception.

Oil Deposits Found in Gomel; Gold Prospecting 'Promising'

WS0209140794 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] According to information received, as of the beginning of September there were over 1,470 joint enterprises and over 500 enterprises belonging entirely to foreign investors in the country. In August alone, 50 joint ventures and 25 foreign enterprises were registered in Belarus. In experts' opinion, foreign investors are attracted by the rather highly developed industry and highly skilled and relatively cheap labor resources in Belarus. The enterprises of foreign or mixed ownership are granted a number of privileges and tax breaks on condition that the share of foreign capital in the statutory fund accounts for more than 30 percent. The forms of investment include not only monetary resources, but also equipment and technologies.

The greatest interest in cooperation with Belarusian enterprises is displayed by Polish businessmen. Aside from Poland, there are Germany, the United States, Italy, and Austria among the top five foreign investors in Belarus. The United States ranks first in terms of the volume of capital investments. To a great extent, this is due to the U.S.-Belarusian agreement on the protection of investments, which was signed at the beginning of the current year.

The Belarusian capital is the most attractive place for foreign investors. In the city alone, there are about 1,000 enterprises with the participation of foreign capital. In the order of diminution, Minsk is followed by Brest, Hrodna, Minsk, Mahilew and Vitsebsk Oblasts. Foreign entrepreneurs have recently displayed a heightened activity in Brest.

Mineral Exploration Under Way

[illegible] Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0000 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Geological exploration is under way and developing in many regions of Belarus. Geologists are searching for deposits of oil, brown coal, [illegible] and rare metals, diamonds, and gold. Teams from the [illegible] amalgamation have discovered new oil deposits while drilling wells in three areas of Homel Oblast. The search for gold is also promising. More than 3 kg of gold have already been panned in some regions of the Republic.

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Admission To Council of Europe To Be Discussed 21 Sep

WS0609094994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Belarus is standing on the threshold of the Council of Europe. A delegation of this international organization will arrive in Minsk on 21 September. The initiative to hold this visit belongs to Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov, chairman of the Council of Europe Ministers Committee, and Council of Europe Secretary General Daniel (Tarter). In the course of the visit to Minsk delegation members are expected to meet the Republic's president, the Belarusian Government and Supreme Soviet leadership, and to discuss the issues of stepping up activities aimed at our Republic's admission to this international organization as a full-fledged member. In the Council of Europe Belarus currently enjoys the status of a special guest.

Moldova

President Snegur Meets U.S. Envoy to UN

LD0509203894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Moldovan leaders will probably ask the 49th UN General Assembly session to adopt a resolution on peaceful settlement of the differences between the Moldovan government and the Transdniestrian authorities. Petru Daschel, presidential foreign policy adviser, told Interfax this in an exclusive interview in which he commented on the recent remark made by Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the UN, that the world community should discuss the withdrawal of Russian troops from Moldovan soil. IF Note: Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the legislature in the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic, told Interfax recently that the Russian 14th Army should not leave the region until the status of Transdniestria is finally agreed. The Tiraspol authorities believe that the Russian troops are the sole guarantor of peace and stability in the region.

According to Daschel, the meeting between Mircea Snegur and Albright enabled to two countries to exchange views on the major items on the UN General Assembly's agenda and the outlook for bilateral cooperation. The discussion of the Moldovan-Russian agreement on the legal status and the sequence of and deadlines for the withdrawal of Russian troops that are temporarily stationed on Moldovan soil was especially important, he noted.

Daschel said that Snegur and Albright had agreed that the Moldovan-U.S. relations had been developing successfully with 33 joint ventures established, the U.S. Peace Corps program being implemented in Moldova, five trade and economic cooperation agreements, notably on mutual protection of investments, signed and Moldova granted a most favored nation treatment.

He emphasized that Albright had confirmed full U.S. support of Moldova and its efforts to have the crisis in its eastern parts resolved.

Daschel said that an understanding was reached on other aspects of cooperation within the UN framework, in particular peacekeeping operations in various regions, stepping up the monitoring of human rights observance by all countries, reform of the Security Council and its possible expansion and improving the performance of the UN machinery.

Daschel said in conclusion that consultations and exchanges of views between all countries, whatever their size or influence, on most burning international as well as bilateral issues was a welcome development.

Snegur is believed to raise at his meeting with Albright the issue of the damage done by natural disasters to Moldova. IF Note: According to Valentin Kunev, deputy prime minister, as a result of the disasters Moldova has to ask the creditor countries such as Germany, the U.S.A., Romania and Russia to put off the payment of Moldova's foreign debt, amounting to 92 million lei, or $23 million, in 1993. He said that the harm done by the drought in the southern part of the country, the hurricane in the central areas of August 11 and the floods of August 26 and 27 was as large as the total budget spending, 1.9 billion lei, or $455.6 million, approved by parliament for 1994. The budget cannot be implemented unless the Moldovan government negotiates a delay of debt payments with the creditor countries, Kunev emphasized.

Dniester Marks Self-Proclaimed Independence Anniversary

AU0209163094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1713 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS 1/9/1994—On September 2, Tiraspol will celebrate the 4th anniversary of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic. Tomorrow a military parade and a rally will be organized on the Tiraspol central square "Aleksandr Suvorov." According to an order by Lieutenant General Stanislav Khadzhiyev, Dniester defence minister, on September 2 night 30 cannon salutes will be made. BASA learned that delegations from Sakhalin, Novgorod, Volgograd, [illegible], Russian autonomous republics of Ossetia, Abkhazia and Tatarstan, as well as Gagauzia will attend the festivities. The Tiraspol authorities sent invitations to the Moldovan officials and representatives of foreign diplomatic missions in Chisinau. Moldovan Dniester republic, unrecognized by the international community, was unilaterally proclaimed on September 2, 1990 in the Moldovan eastern districts. The Tiraspol authorities claim that they control an area of 4,163 square kilometers percent of Moldova's territory) and a population of over 740,000 people (16 percent of Moldova's population).

Dniester President Addresses Rally on Independence Day

LD0209163694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today is the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the unrecognized Dniester Moldavian Republic [DMR]. RIA reports that its president, Igor Smirnov, has addressed a rally in Tiraspol. He said—and I quote—we will continue to seek ways of cooperating with Moldavia [Moldova], but we will never allow our republic to disappear. The president of the DMR stressed that the establishment of state structures was virtually completed in the Dniester region. Those politicians who were hoping that the republic would go under at any moment were wasting their time, he said.

New TU Association Opposes FSI

AU0209133194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2045 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 31/8/1994—The Moldovan Association of Trade Unions Committee Chairmen was registered at the Justice Ministry on July 29. It was created "to protect indeed the laborers' interests," states to th weekly LITERATURA SI ARTA Alexandru Esinencu, chairman of the new association. The idea of organizing this association belongs to several Chisinau trade unions chairmen who openly opposed the Independent Trade Unions Federation (FSI). "After the FSI leadership began to flirt with the Moldovan officials forgetting about the needs of those on whose fees they live," says Esinencu. According to him, to join the association any trade union has to annul the contract with the trade unions committee to which it belongs. In this case, members of the trade union will be able to decide on the amount of fees to be paid to the association. "We will prove that a leadership consisting of 2-3 people is able to do much more than the FSI leadership," states Esinencu. He says that the association is not an alternative to the FSI as it is still a member of the FSI according to a presidential decree stipulating that only the FSI has the right to manage the special fund of social insurance. "However, we will have control over the money deposited to the FSI's account to protect members of the association," states Esinencu.

Prosecutor Recommends Suspension of FPCD, Other Parties

[illegible] Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 5 Sep 94

[illegible] from Chisinau]

[Text] The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Moldova carried out some checks on the observation of legislation regulating the activity of the parties operating in the republic. The checks discovered that the statute, program, and activity of the Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCD], of its leadership, and its press organ are directed against the sovereignty, independence, and state character of the Republic of Moldova, a news item by MOLDPRESS reports. According to Article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, parties and other social and political organizations whose goal and actions are directed against the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of the Republic of Moldova are anticonstitutional.

The Prosecutor's Office handed over a notification to the minister of justice of the Republic of Moldova suggesting that it consider suspending the activity of the FPCD and its bodies for six months. For the duration of its suspension, the party should be urged to bring its statute, activity program, and other founding documents in line with the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and the Law on Parties and Other Social and Political Organizations.

Likewise, the Prosecutor's Office found that certain provisions of the statutes and programs of the Unitate-Edinstvo Movement, the Intelligentsia Congress, the National Christian Party, and the Green Party do not correspond with current valid legislation. The Prosecutor's Office presented to the minister of justice a notification on suspending the activity of these parties until they modify the aforementioned documents, so as to be in line with current legislation.

Experts See Serious Economic Impact of Floods

AU0509202794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1956 GMT 2 Sep 94

["Economic commentary: Moldovan Economy and Impact of Natural Disaster"—BASAPRESS headline]

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 02/9/1994—The natural disaster which affected Moldova this spring and summer will have the most serious impact on the economy. The burden of new expenses will press heavy on the deficit budget of millions of lei. Experts from the Finance Ministry recently assessed that the damage suffered by Moldova as a result of the disasters represents the annual government expenditures. [illegible] minister of economics, stated during a meeting with representatives of the foreign embassies in Chisinau that the material damage caused by the disasters in spring and August 11-12 and 26-27 stands at 1 billion lei ([illegible] million). The ongoing drought caused significant damage to the crop which was evaluated at [illegible] million lei and the storm on August 11-12 damages exceeding [illegible] million lei. The damage brought about by the August 26-27 torrential rains was estimated at [illegible] million lei. [illegible] a considerable financial injection [illegible] consequences of the disasters [illegible]. The foreign

[illegible]

humanitarian aid cover only a part of the need for financial means. Government representatives point out that changes should be made to the state budget and new exceptional measures should be undertaken in the financial field. On the other hand, Alexei Cemartan, prime vice minister of finance, stated that "no change will be made to the expenditures for enterprises and institutions financed from the budget, and in particular to the social programs and salaries." Banking representatives say that the accounts of the state enterprises will not be frozen though the government bears large expenses due to the natural disasters. Iurie Pailic, from the National Bank, mentioned that the Moldovan leu's exchange rate could decrease if the government grants credits to deal with the consequences of the disaster. Anyway, the Moldovan Government's hopes to stabilize the economy this year become unachievable. And even its hopes to make economy operate at its full capacity with the help of foreign assistance are vanished. The damage caused by the disaster represents 60 percent of all foreign credits or according to certain preliminary calculations, over 40 percent of the gross domestic product.

14th Army Aides Flood-Stricken Population

LD0509123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau (Moldova) September 5 TASS—Flood-stricken areas of Moldova received on Monday humanitarian aid which was sent to Chisinau by the 14th Russian Army deployed in the Dniester region of the republic.

Moldovan First Deputy Economics Minister Ion Chebuk who is in charge of distributing aid coming to Moldova told ITAR-TASS that authorities in the Khyncheshi district received 1,000 sets of warm clothing and footwear from Russian troops.

Russian soldiers participated in rescue and restoration operations since the first days of floods in order to help local population to do away with inundation consequences in places of their deployment in the Dniester region of Moldova, ITAR-TASS learnt at the headquarters of the 14th Army.

Prime Minister Thanks Donors for Aid Relief

[illegible] Moscow ITAR-TASS in English [illegible] GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev (Moldova) September 6 TASS—Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli thanked foreign countries and international organisations for relief to Moldova (Moldavia) that suffered from a flood. At a session of national cabinet on Tuesday, the head of the government noted that countries of the CIS, the United States, Germany, Turkey, Austria and a number of other countries had promptly responded to Kishinev's calls for help.

According to verified data, the damage to Moldavia from the flood amounted to about 360 million lei (90 million U.S. dollars), and with taking into account indirect losses to about one billion lei, or 250 million dollars. The total damage to Moldavia from natural calamities this summer—the unprecedented drought, hurricane and flood—will make up approximately half the Moldavian national income.

Cargoes for relief and funds continue to arrive in Moldavia from foreign countries. Three airliners with humanitarian aid and rescue teams arrived from Russia. Russia is supplying Moldavia with fuel, food, building materials, warm clothing. The Moscow government announced that it had allocated ten billion roubles and 40 car-loads of cargoes for those affected by the elements, ITAR-TASS learned from the Russian Embassy in Kishinev. Byelorussia [Belarus] is preparing to send to Moldavia more than 400 prefabricated houses for the homeless and other aid. Fourteen car-loads of building materials will be sent to Kishinev by Uzbekistan. Ukraine supplied Moldavia with large aid.

Material aid has also come by now from the United Nations (80 thousand dollars), from the European Union (500 thousand ecu), from the United States (20 thousand dollars), from Germany (100 thousand Deutsche mark). The Romanian Government decided to grant to Moldavia aid amounting to one billion Romanian lei (about 600 thousand dollars).

14th Army Commander Lebed Receives New Orders

AU0209144194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1115 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS 1/9/1994—Reliable sources from the 14th Army command relay that during yesterday's meeting between Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and General Aleksandr Lebed the latter received new directives concerning the 14th Army command. The previous order that the command had to be liquidated was annulled. According to the new directives the number of officers will be reduced by 20-25 percent. Also, the additional pay representing 50 percent of the salary as well as other privileges enjoyed by the 14th Army officers will be preserved. General Lebed will return Tuesday, August 30 to Tiraspol. Yesterday, Lebed stated to the "Freedom" Radio that the troops' withdrawal "should not begin by establishing the timetable as it will be unrealistic." According to him, "economic, political and technical conditions, preparation of public opinion and the guaranteeing of the capital investments by international organizations or several states should be sought for the withdrawal." According to the "Free Europe" radio, Moldovan [illegible] that Russia seeks permanent [illegible] of the

[illegible]

biasediy presented the relations between the Moscow Defence Ministry and General Lebed.

Transdniester Speaker Wants Army To Stay

LD0209123594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Speaker of Transdniestria's Parliament Grigoriy Marakutsa said his republic's administration is certain, as before, that Russia's 14th Army must not leave the region until the legal status of Transdniestria has been fixed.

Marakutsa said Tiraspol is certain that the army "continues to remain the guarantee of peace and stability in the region and that its pullout is out of question."

Commenting on the fourth anniversary of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian republic, its parliament speaker said the Transdniestrian administration was marking the holiday with hope and optimism. He believes that the return of peace and calm to the region have been the greatest achievements to date.

"We are primarily thankful to the government and people of Russia, who have supported us throughout these hard times. Russia has the credit for putting an end to the bloodshed," Marakutsa said.

German Officials Inspect 14th Army

LD0209133694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] A group of German inspectors are doing a check of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation based in Moldova, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the Moldovan Defense Ministry.

Konstantin Mushinskiy of the Moldovan Defense Ministry said that this is the second inspection carried out on the 14th Russian Army by a German service.

He said that this is an ordinary inspection not connected with the talks on the army's withdrawal from Moldova or reports about theft of arms from its arsenals.

National Army Day Marked 3 Sep

[illegible] Chisinau BASAPRESS in English [illegible] GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 3/9/1994—Defense Minister Pavel Creanga declared September 3, Moldovan National Army's day, day-off in all military units. The units' commanders are to organize laying of flowers to the tombs of the soldiers who died during the Dniester conflict. Today, Moldovan leaders and National Army chiefs laid flowers to the Stefan cel Mare monument and the graves of those who died in the summer battles of 1992. The Moldovan National Army was established by the September 3, 1991 presidential decree. Currently, the National Army numbers [illegible] soldiers and officers. It comprises brigades of motorized infantry, rocket artillery, units of anti-aircraft defense, a plane unit endowed with MIG-29 planes and "Fulger" [thunderbolt] special battalion. The National Army is also equipped with mortars, anti-tank artillery, "Uragan" rocket launchers and military equipment for the infantry.

Privatization Behind Schedule; Government To Make Changes

AU0209133894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2045 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 31/8/1994—The government repeatedly declared that it will not change the program on privatization, but some problems in the program will be discussed, states to the newspaper PRIVAT REVUE Deputy Premier Ion Gutu, chairman of the council coordinating the economic reform. According to him, the privatization mechanism and the list of enterprises to be auctioned will be changed. Gutu thinks that "the government should take up to 20 percent of the shares of some enterprises to sell them to foreign investors" in order to stimulate the enterprises' modernization. Gutu mentions that the list of items to be auctioned in 1994 is being examined as it is obvious that "the program on privatizing 1,600 enterprises will not be fulfilled." This year, it is planned to privatize 500 small and 100 medium and large enterprises. "If privatization does not lead to increasing efficiency in production, the government can pose the question in another way: who we have given priority?" to look for new solutions to redress Moldovan economy, states Ion Gutu.

Moldova Seeks Rescheduling of 1994 Foreign Debt

LD0309134994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Moldova is forced to ask its countries-creditors (Germany, the United States, Romania, Russia and others) to delay repayment of its foreign debt for 1994 amounting to 92 million ([illegible] million) due to the great losses inflicted to the republic by the natural disasters, the republic's Vice Premier Valentin Kunev told Interfax. This week Kunev addressed the Moldovan government with a request to start negotiations with creditors on this issue.

In his words, the losses from the drought in Moldova's southern regions, from the storm in the central regions (August 11) and the flood (August [illegible]) have reached the amount of the expenditure part of the state budget approved by the parliament for 1994 and totaling [illegible] billion lei ([illegible] million). If the Moldovan government does not start negotiations with the countries-creditors to delay the payments, Kunev said, the fulfillment of the budget will be impossible.

Andronic Sees 'Improvement' in Linguistic Controversy

AU0209163194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1715 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/9/1994—Compared with 1989 Moldova's linguistic situation has improved; knowing the official language became a necessity for those who do not speak it, stated to national radio Nicolae Andronic, Moldovan deputy speaker. "On the other hand, over five years a few things were made to change the socio-linguistic situation," said Andronic. According to him, in 1990-1994 "the old Parliament and government adopted no documents regarding the language; only the president issued decrees, including that on linguistic attestation. However, his actions were not taken into consideration, people opting for discord." Andronic also specified that "the current Parliament could later adopt decisions that give new opportunities to study the language, but time is required to change the mentality of population, and, firstly, of deputies." Asked if those who use the term "Romanian language" can be punished, he specified that the Constitution approves the 1989 linguistic law whose preamble states that Moldovan is identical to Romanian. "You cannot be punished or fired only because you say that you speak Romanian, though according to the law the state radio and television should employ the term 'Moldovan Language.'"

PDAM Condemns Romania's 'Interference in Internal Affairs'

AU0609115594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1700 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/9/1994—Dumitru Motpan, PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova] leader, stated to the newspaper PAMANT SI OAMENI (LAND AND PEOPLE) that he does not intend to run for presidency. "Personally, I believe that there is no better candidate for president that the current president Mircea Snegur," he said. Motpan points out that "unlike other countries, we have an anti-statehood opposition which denies Moldova's existence as a sovereign and independent state." In his opinion, the current opposition "plays the game of Moldovan statehood's enemies from abroad." Commenting on "the interference into Moldova's internal affairs," Motpan said that he has an absolutely negative attitude "first, toward the Romanian [illegible] August 1 declaration [illegible] to live in one [illegible] country and gives advice about a [illegible] program of common issue. I can only be sorry that the neighboring country, Romania, which was the first to recognize Moldova's independence and sovereignty, is permanently attempting to interfere in the internal affairs of a foreign state," he said. In his opinion, "certain official circles in Romania descend to the level of the revanchist forces of the Moldovan opposition that always dream about Moldova's unification with Romania."

Romania's Paunescu Denies 'Insulting' Customs Officers

AU0309133594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1715 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/9/1994—On August 30 evening, around 1800 hours [1500 GMT], an incident in which Romanian Senator Adrian Paunescu was involved occurred at the Leuseni customs office, states a Security Ministry communique released yesterday. Paunescu accompanied by a numerous group of Romanian citizens was heading for Moldova to take part in the "Limba Noastra" ["Our Language"] holiday. At the border guards' attempts to temper the noisy group, Paunescu insulted the customs officers. They were called, among other things, Soviet pigs, traitors of nation, bastards, etc. After that the groups had to return to Romania. "The Leuseni customs officers were confused by the totally undiplomatic behaviour of the counselor-minister of the Romanian Embassy to Chisinau, Mihai Rujoi, who came there to settle the conflict and who used rude words." BASA asked Paunescu to comment on the incident. He stated: "I was framed. Obviously, they did not want me to come to Moldova." He said that the Security Ministry communique is "a lie of a perfect stupidity" and he can present as evidence the video cassette on this incident. On the other hand, Romanian diplomat Mihai Rujoi stated to BASA that what is said in the communique "is a mistake" and that in Leuseni he made no statements or comments on the incident.

New Official Publications Appear in Tiraspol

AU0309133394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1715 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/9/1994—Today, two new official papers appeared in Tiraspol. These are "publications of the Parliament and Government of the Moldovan Dniester Republic." Each of them has a circulation of 5,000 copies. The Russian one is named PRIDNESTROVYE [DNIESTER] and will come out four times a week. The second is called ADEVARUL NISTREAN (THE DNIESTER TRUTH) and is printed in Moldovan with Cyrillic characters. The first issue of both newspapers is dedicated to the 4th anniversary of the self-proclaimed republic. [illegible] Vladimir Maslennikov, 55, is editor-in-chief of the newspaper PRIDNESTROVYE. He resides in Moldova since 1985 and previously has worked as editor-in-chief of the daily DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA. [illegible], 39, native of the Camenca district on the left bank, [illegible] by profession, is editor-in-chief of the newspaper ADEVARUL NISTREAN.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev, German Envoy Discuss EU Issues

LD0609082694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] September 6 TASS—German ambassador Eike Bracklo was received by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Monday as a representative of a country currently chairing the European Union [EU]. This is why the talk focused on a wide range of problems linked with multilateral cooperation between the West European countries and the newly independent state of Kazakhstan.

They discussed some concrete credits which are being extended by the European Union to Kazakhstan within the frameworks of the former's technical assistance to the CIS countries. Bracklo said that it was planned to open shortly an office of the European Union in Alma Ata. It will be headed by an official in the rank of ambassador.

Nazarbayev drew attention to some similarities and differences of integrational processes in Western Europe and on the post-Soviet space. He dwelt on the essence of his idea to set up a Eurasian Union, stressing that any commonwealth of nations should be based on the full equality of all its members.

Discussing bilateral relations, the sides noted the growing volume of trade between Kazakhstan and Germany, stressing, however, that both countries were displeased with the rates of its growth. They stressed the need to eliminate all obstacles to trade between the two states, including bureaucratic roadblocks. "Kazakhstan," Nazarbayev said, "wants to play host not only to large German firms, but also to rely on the investments of medium- and small-size companies, on their growing partnership with Kazakh entrepreneurs."

Touching on the conditions of the german diaspora in Kazakhstan, the sides noted their common desire to preserve it and stressed the desirability of creating additional conditions for its consolidation and prosperity.

Discussed during the talk also was the problem of the Sea of Aral. The ambassador said that several German firms were ready to participate in corresponding studies and to render concrete assistance in the solution of problems linked with the effort to save this unique water reservoir.

Nazarbayev, U.S. Envoy Stress Economic Cooperation

[illegible] Moscow ITAR-TASS in English [illegible] GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty September 2 TASS—President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev received U.S. Ambassador William H. Courtney today. During the meeting between them a wide range of questions concerning bilateral cooperation and a number of topical international problems were discussed.

In particular, discussions were held on intensifying relations between Kazakhstan and the United States, especially, in the economic sphere. Attention was paid to the need to create an effective mechanism to implement the understandings which were reached earlier. In this context, the two sides emphasized the important role of the joint Kazakhstan-American committee for cooperation, which covers the whole complex of bilateral relations.

The two sides exchanged views on the development of integration processes in the CIS. In this context Nursultan Nazarbayev explained the essence of the idea of a Eurasian union, a draft of which has been included in the agenda of the upcoming CIS summit. The president also noted that the united economic space created by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan is a typical example of close and mutually beneficial cooperation within the CIS framework.

President Akayev Receives Mongolian Delegation

LD0409184394 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Askar Akayev, the president of the Kyrgyz Republic, received Mr. Lu (Bon), chairman of the Mongolian Committee for Friendship and Peace, who was invited by the Kyrgyz Friendship and Cooperation Society with Foreign Countries. He informed President Akayev of the social and political situation in Mongolia, and talked about the work of the committee. He noted the further development of good-neighborly relations with CIS countries.

Askar Akayev briefed the guest on the economic and democratic progress in Kyrgyzstan. The president also informed him about the Mongolian students' schooling and living conditions in Kyrgyzstan. The committee chairman expressed satisfaction with the living and studying conditions of his countrymen. He also expressed his view on holding cultural days of the two countries, which was welcomed by Akayev.

Kazakh, Ukrainian Officials Sign Package Deal

[illegible] Moscow INTERFAX in English [illegible] GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian and Kazakh officials have ended talks in Alma-Ata (Almaty) by signing a package of agreements which provide for this year's settlements, [illegible] cooperation, planned integration of their basic industries and [illegible].

The correspondent reports the payments agreement [illegible] the two countries' failure to compromise on the question of [illegible].

[illegible]

The new agreement allows Ukrainian and Kazakh companies to open accounts in each other's countries to accumulate local currency to pay for imports. However, this is subject to supervision by their national banks.

Ukrainian industry minister Anatoliy Golubchenko described the deal as the first stride to be followed by agreements on mutual protection of investment, free trade and a range of products exempt from import duty.

The minister pointed out that the shipping deal would have to be agreed with Russia because Ukrainian and Kazakh exports would pass through Russian territory.

The two sides are also keen to sign one other agreement providing for air and railway links.

Nazarbayev on Expansion of Regional Economic Group

LD0209141194 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1130 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Excerpts] President Nazarbayev received Husamettin Cindoruk, speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, on 1 September.

Nazarbayev has said that Kazakhstan is actively implementing the economic reform. It is natural that in this process it has to face a number of objective difficulties, and sometimes the viewpoints of the parliament and the government differ. But this is natural for a society on the way toward democracy.

In the president's opinion, the common economic space recently created by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan will facilitate a quicker and less painful way out of the current crisis. Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are also ready to join this space. This testifies to the fact that many people began to understand that deep economic integration of the neighboring states would help each of them to be more successful in implementing their reforms.

Legislators Demand State of Emergency for Agriculture

[illegible] Almaty KAZTAG in Russian [illegible] GMT 2 Sep 94

[illegible] The country is on the verge of famine: this is the opinion of the agrarian deputies who held a press conference 31 August during the break between the Supreme Council plenary sessions. The deputies are alarmed because the harvest, which has been grown despite so many hardships, is likely to remain in the fields. The deputies suggested their own way of saving it. They say that in the coming three days wages and pensions should be paid to farmers, who have seen no payment for over half a year [illegible] that an emergency situation should be declared in the country, and that everyone should be sent to the fields to gather the harvest.

The group of agrarian legislators believes that destruction of the countryside has reached threatening proportions. In order to halt this process, the government should pay farmers for the agricultural produce which they have already procured. The government should also immediately restore the farms' current capital instead of granting enslaving loans to them. The government should provide stable financing and stop privatization.

The agrarian deputies said that they are ready to demand the government's resignation if the government does not create normal working and living conditions for the agrarian sector. The parliamentarians are sure that the agrarian sector is not at all that heavy a burden on the republic's economy as is so often depicted by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Prime Minister Comments on Bread Prices

LD0109185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 1 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The government believes it is necessary to completely liberalize bread prices, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko told parliament on Thursday. Interfax Note: President Nazarbayev a week ago called for lifting all restrictions from bread prices, as he addressed a conference in Akmola on preparations for harvesting. "We must dare take that step and stop subsidizing bread at last," President Nazarbayev said. He promised that retirees and most vulnerable groups of the population would be entitled to earmarked compensations for an imminent rise in the prices of one of Kazakhstan's basic foodstuffs. President Nazarbayev said that low bread prices played into the hands of traders who moved it from border areas to Russia. He said bread prices in Kazakhstan were a mere one-twelfth of those in Russia.

Prime Minister Tereshchenko said the Cabinet was going to submit an official proposal for liberalizing bread prices to parliament before September 15th. Tereshchenko expects the price of one loaf of bread to be up to [illegible] tenges. Currently one loaf sells for one tenge on the average. (The official rate of exchange set by the Bank of Kazakhstan is [illegible] tenges for $1.)

Tereshchenko said the government was evaluating what additional funds would have to be spent on compensations to the low-paid and the employees of budget-financed organizations when the bread prices surge up.

Fund Manager Interviewed on Investment Prospects

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

the republic as as Butya-Capital, Raimbek, Alem-Invest, and Novoye Pokoleniye, the Invest-Zholdary fund practically does not advertize itself. Neither does it call itself a symbol of faith and hope. But it is quite possible that you personally would choose the Invest Zholdary fund in which to place your coupons. The fund was set up in December last year.

Today we speak to Yevgeniy Larionov, deputy manager of the fund:

[Correspondent] Who founded this fund?

[Larionov] The founders are the largest road construction enterprises of Kazakhstan, such as the joint stock company Kostanaydorstroy, the Zhana Zhol joint stock company, the Neftedorstroy oil and road construction enterprise, the Zhezkazgandorstroy joint stock company, and the Zhelezobeton ferro- concrete joint stock company.

[Correspondent] What are your main objectives - then and now?

[Larionov] The main objective is to attract investments into road construction with a view to develop the industry further. It is the most stable and reliable industry. We hope it will always be profitable. I am speaking about profits because further development of the Kazakh economy is not possible without ways, roads to connect objects, and we have big potential in technology.

[Correspondent] As far as I know, at present the situation in road construction is far from being easy. Virtually no roads are being built. Moreover, the task is to try and save the old roads from further decay. Why do you hope that people will come to your fund with their coupons under such conditions?

[Larionov] Yes, of course, you are right. Our fund has been set up to accommodate ways of tackling these problems. We do hope that people will come to us with their coupons because, no matter how bad things are, without roads Kazakhstan will not be able to cope with other problems. Currently, the task is to transfer the capital from Almaty to Akmola. Without developing roads in Akmola Oblast this objective cannot be reached. It means money will be allocated by the state into road construction. Consequently, investors will also receive their shares.

[illegible]

[illegible]

coupons. What shall I have in my hand after I have handed my coupons in. What are the guarantees that I shall have dividends in future?

[Larionov] We issue certificates for the people who bring us their coupons. The certificates are registered in the bank, and you officially co-own all shares which will be bought by your fund. Your data will be entered into the computer database.

[Correspondent] What enterprises shall I co-own?

[Larionov] We are still buying shares, and when this process is completed, every investor will be officially advised.

[Correspondent] It means you act as our brokers and we have to trust you. But what shall we do if you buy shares of an enterprise which goes bankrupt?

[Larionov] We are interested in choosing the most viable enterprises because our own coupons are invested in this fund as well. We carry out an in-depth economic analysis of all enterprises whose shares we buy. Our fund's manager is one of the best experts in Kazakhstan.

[Correspondent] What do you think about privatisation in the republic? You have a Ph.D. degree in economics. What is your view on the anticrisis program worked out by the Kazakh government, especially where it concerns privatization?

[Larionov] The State Property Committee is undergoing big structural changes now. New temporary provisions are being introduced on experimental auctions where high-status objects will be put to tender. Such objects as the Ocean shop, and the Stolichniy and Yubileyniy shops, and the Turkestan Hotel. These are objects which will bring profit practically from the start. Along with the investment funds, individuals will be also entitled to buy them. The investment funds find themselves in a very difficult situation in this case because these objects are very expensive and the number of competitors is too high. Besides, a minimum 30 percent should be paid up-front in cash. Consequently, very few funds are capable of doing such transactions.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Kyrgyzstan

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[Text] Bishkek, 5 September—We are transmitting the full text of the statement of the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, given to the agency at 1425 Moscow time:

Statement by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The government of the Kyrgyz Republic from the very beginning of its activity has built its work within the framework of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic and current laws. Its aim has been to tackle pressing economic issues. It has always recognized its responsibility to the Kyrgyz people, the President, and the parliament [Jogorku Kenesh] for the results of its activity in carrying out profound economic reform and tackling acute social problems.

At the same time, the supreme executive power is experiencing with anxiety those unhealthy processes which have taken place in the parliament and which have finally led it into a profound parliamentary crisis. This is evidenced by the announcements published in the press from people's deputies declaring their refusal to take any further part in the work of the parliament or in its sessions, since the parliament, in the view of those deputies, has changed from being the supreme legislative body to a place for political nit-picking and unproductive discussions. And indeed, at a time when the republic found itself in a state of severe economic crisis and the president and government were taking all possible measures to emerge from it, political squabbles in parliament caused a distraction from work, introduced an element of nervousness into the republic's public life, and hindered the solution of most acute socio-economic tasks.

Statements by the deputies about their refusal to take part in parliamentary work have seriously complicated the situation, and according to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic [illegible] parliament becomes unqualified to take any decisions in future. Thus the parliament in effect ceased its activity. We would have asked the President in this situation, as guarantor of the Constitution and unity of state authority, to take a speedy decision on extrication from this crisis.

The government of the Kyrgyz Republic [illegible]

[illegible]

Akayev Accepts Resignation

[illegible]

[Text] Bishkek, 5 September— Askar Akayev, the president of Kyrgyzstan has accepted the resignation of the country's government. A decree to this effect has just been signed by the head of state. In the same document the president instructs the present members of the government to continue carrying out their functions pending the formation of a new cabinet of ministers. In addition, the decree stipulates that parliamentary elections are to be held in the country before the end of the year.

The mandate of the present parliament expires in October. But even now some 180 deputies in all have refused to carry out their duties and to turn up for the September session. Informed sources say the parliament praesidium is preparing an address to the deputies in connection with the resignation of the government.

Plans Decrees Until New Parliament Meets

LD0509165994 Bishkek KYRGYZKABAR in Russian 1529 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Bishkek, 5 Sep—Following the [resignation] request of the Kyrgyz Government, the agency was handed a decree from President Askar Akayev in which it says the step was forced. The cessation of parliament's legislative activity does not allow laws on social protection for the republic's citizens to be passed, market transformations to be conducted, or local government to be reformed. To overcome this, urgent political and legislative measures are required. They are as follows:

The president agrees with the proposal of the MPs on elections to parliament this year, as well [illegible] holding a referendum on amendments and additions to the Constitution [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Crisis Causes Resignation

LD0509111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 5 Sep—The parliamentary crisis is the reason for the resignation today of the Kyrgyz Government. A statement by the government press service says, "the deputies' appeal refusing to take part in the work of parliament has seriously complicated the situation. And according to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic and its regulations, parliament henceforth ceases to be competent to make any decisions." In this way, the document notes, "to all intents and purposes parliament has curtailed its activity. In connection with the prevailing circumstances and guided by the law on the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the government has asked the president of the country to accept its resignation in full."

The head of President Askar Akayev's press service stated earlier that a decree by the head of state is being prepared under which the current government will temporarily fulfill its duties until new elections are held.

Akayev Issues Edict on New Elections

LD0609111894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 Sep 94

["Edict by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on Ensuring Political Stability in the Kyrgyz Republic and on Urgent Socioeconomic Measures"]

[Text] The announcement by the majority of people's deputies of the Kyrgyz Republic that they will refuse to participate in the work of the Supreme Council [Zhogorku Kenesh] has made it impossible for the Supreme Council of the 12th convocation to continue carrying out its principal function—that of legislation—and has thus brought about the government's decision to resign. This action by the people's deputies was called forth by an understandable desire to avert a destabilization of the political situation in the country and to ensure that urgent socioeconomic [illegible] were resolved in a [illegible] manner.

At the same time, [illegible] parliament's legislative [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

social protection for the population, and at support for enterprise and private farming.

In view of the above, and guided by Articles 42 and 46 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, I hereby decree the following:

1 . The proposal by the majority of people's deputies of the Kyrgyz Republic that elections should be held to the Supreme Council in 1994 is to be acceded to.

2. It is to be considered expedient to hold a referendum in order to discover the nation's wishes as regards amendments and additions to the constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic which would be designed to guarantee true popular power, consolidate the guarantees laid down in the constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, and improve coordination between the institutions of state authority in the near future; and which would also be designed to guarantee that elections to the representative bodies of local government should be held within the time-frame stipulated in Edict 188 issued by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on 18 August 1994 which deals with the reform of local government in the Kyrgyz Republic.

3. The request to resign submitted by the government of the Kyrgyz Republic is to be accepted in accordance with Section 3, Article 2 of the law on the Government off the Kyrgyz Republic. The government is instructed to continue exercising its powers until a new government is formed with the assent of the Supreme Council which will be elected on the basis of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.

4. Edicts Decrees by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic are to be issued on these matters:

—ensuring [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and state sector [illegible]

—supplementary payments [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

- cutting the number of taxes;

- improving the system by which individuals' incomes are taxed and by which they declare this income;

- freeing people on low incomes from income tax;

- revitalizing the financial position of state enterprises by offering them deferments of financial sanctions and penalties which have been imposed on them but not yet recovered;

- financial support for privato farmers;

- the creation of preferential rules for foreign investors;

- the organizational foundations for local government and elections to representative bodies of local government;

- the terms for producing results from the nationwide referendum;

5. Those sections of the edicts by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic enumerated in Point 4. of this decree which deal with amendments and additions to laws of the Kyrgyz Republic are to be discussed and approved by the Supreme Council which is to be elected in line with the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.

6. The drafting and approval of civic, labor, agrarian and criminal codes, as well as of laws which form the legal basis for [illegible] in the Kyrgyz Republic, are to be regarded as one of the main areas of legislative policy for 1994-95.

[signed] President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, Government House, Bishkek, 5th September 1994

Parliamentary Presidium Approves Early Elections

[illegible] ITAR-TASS [illegible] in Russian [illegible]

[illegible] The president has won the support of the Presidium of the Supreme Council [illegible] at an emergency sitting [illegible] the president's edict on holding [illegible] the Supreme Council in 1994.

[illegible]

[illegible] Parliament [illegible]

[illegible]

In their messages to the president, parliament, and people published by the Kyrgyz press on Friday the rebel lawmakers say they will not take part in the session because, in their view, parliament has become a stage for political struggle and intrigues and lost credibility with the people.

The forthcoming last session of the Kyrgyz parliament was expected to set a date for new parliamentary elections. Most Kyrgyz lawmakers called for holding them in February or March 1995. The rebel MPs argue that December would be the best option; allowing a new parliament to get down to work by January.

If the last session of the Kyrgyz parliament fails to materialize a date for parliamentary elections will be set by President Askar Akayev.

Tajikistan

Government Forces Control Badakhshan Region

LD0609103994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The region close to Badakhshan is under the control of Tajikistan government forces. This was reported to the Khovar information center by the press office of the Defense Ministry of the republic. Opposition circles recently spread rumors alleging that Tavildara rayon had been under the control of the armed anti-government formations. The press center of the Defense Ministry stressed that such rumors are of provocative nature aimed at destabilizing the situation. The units and companies of the Defense Ministry of Tajikistan fully control Tavildara rayon and have inflicted crushing blows to armed provocations.

The press office also reported that government units on 31 August clashed with a group of fighters in (Nural-loyan) village. As a result the fighters retreated, sustaining casualties.

Rakhmonov on Security 'Stabilizing' Measures

[illegible] Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

As far as you know, the authorities of the republic have decided to postpone the terms of the nationwide referendum [on draft constitution] and the presidential election, in order to stabilize the political situation of the country, to allow the return home of all refugees, and to provide better conditions for the nationwide discussion of the constitution and election of the president of the republic. Similarly, the authorities of the republic decided to pardon those people who have firearms if they surrender and to release prisoners. These measures of the authorities of the republic creates favorable conditions for all compatriots to take part in the election.

Similarly, the authorities of the republic decided to raise the level of the official government delegation at the next round of [intra-Tajik] talks. We are sincerely in favor of beneficial talks, full cease-fire, and ensuring the full security of our compatriots.

Opposes 'Internationalization' of Conflict

LD0209201494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1917 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations September 2 TASS—Large-scale participation of foreign mercenaries in combat operations in Tajikistan has given a new shape to the inter-Tajik conflict. This shape threatens peace and stability in the whole Central Asia. The new situation requires immediate and efficient measures on the part of the U.N. Security Council to prevent dangerous internationalization of the conflict, says an appeal of Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov circulated today as a document of the U.N. Security Council.

"The irreconcilable opposition and its sponsors are holding a reckless policy of escalation of the armed conflict and its internationalization which is fraught with uncontrolled spread of the military hotbed throughout the Central Asia and neighbouring states. Large-scale participation of mercenaries from Algeria, Afghanistan, Sudan and other states in combat operations on Tajik territory provoke alarm," says the document. The Tajik Government has numerous proofs of these activities, including dozens of foreign citizens detained and killed on Tajik territory.

Holding the policy towards conflict internationalization, the opposition leaders are launching large-scale armed provocations against Russian border guards who are protecting the Tajik border in accordance with Russian-Tajik agreements. These actions have resulted in Russian border guards killed and wounded.

Bearing in mind the increasing threat of uncontrolled conflict proliferation in the region, the Tajik leadership has called on the U.N. Security Council and governments of states whose citizens are participating in the war against the Tajik people "to take immediate and efficient measures to prevent further gross interference in internal affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan". It is stressed that the conflict can be settled only politically within the framework of inter-Tajik negotiations on national reconciliation.

Refugees Repatriation 'Priority Task'

LD0209192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Bringing refugees back home is a priority task for Tajikistan's leadership, the former Soviet republic's head of state Emomali Rakhmonov said.

More than 800,000 people driven out of the republic by its civil war have come back since November 1992, Rakhmonov told Interfax on Friday. He said more than 60,000 of them had arrived from Afghanistan, where, according to official data, no more than 12,000 refugees remain today.

More than 6,000 have come from Russia, including ethnic Russians living in the Central Asian republic, the Tajik leader said. More than 400 apartments have been provided for them in Rogun, where construction has been resumed of what is to be Central Asia's largest hydro power plant, he said.

Rakhmonov said the Russian-speaking refugees who had worked at a nitrogen fertilizer plant in Kalininabad and had sold their apartments would receive them back free of charge if they returned.

More than 80 percent of those who are back have been provided with work, most of them getting back their former jobs, Rakhmonov said. Jobs are now being created for those expected to return before the end of 1994, he said, expressing confidence that all refugees would be back by that time.

Afghan Border Situation Remains 'Complicated'

LD0509085194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0742 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—The operational situation on the Tajik-Afghan border continues to remain complicated, the press service of the Russian border general headquarters told ITAR-TASS today. This is caused by the irreconcilable Tajik opposition's provocative actions which is using the neighbouring state's territory with the support from Afghan mojahedeen, and increasing attempts of armed violations of the border.

A sector of the 12th Moscow Border Guard outpost came under rocket fire from the Afghan territory on Sunday. Fortunately, there were no casualties among the Russian border guards.

The 201st Russian Division's artillery returned the fire silencing enemy weapon emplacements, the divison's operational officer on duty told ITAR-TASS. There were no casualties among Russian guards.

The Russian border guard general headquarters press centre emphasised that decisive measures taken by the Russian border guards during the past 24 hours has to some extent helped "stabilize" the situation on the border between Tajiksitan and Afghanistan, however, it continues to be alarming.

Russian Guards Enforce Afghan Border

LD0109122694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Dushanbe September 1 TASS—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense. Two attempts at illegal crossing by commandos of the opposition forces from the Afghan territory to Tajikistan were prevented by Russian frontier guards of the 12th post of the Moskovskiy frontier guards unit on Wednesday.

Five commandos crossed into Tajikistan on Wednesday afternoon, ITAR-TASS learned from military sources. Russian frontier guards opened intensive fire, killing two fighters of the Tajik opposition.

Some 20 members of the opposition attempted crossing the Tajik-Afghan border in the area of the 12th post at around eight p.m. local time on the same day. Russian frontier guards bombarded the area of the crossing. The casualties of the commandos are not immediately known.

Military say that on Wednesday evening Turg Height in the section of the 12th post twice came under mortar fire from the Tajik territory. Luckily, there were no casualties.

Rocket Attack on Russian Border Guard Post

LD0409191894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1827 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Sep—Positions of the 12th outpost of the Moskovskiy Border Detachment on the Tajik-Afghan border came under rocket launcher fire from the Afghanistan side this afternoon. The enemy's points of fire were suppressed by a retaliatory artillery strike, ITAR-TASS learned from Vladimir Proshutinskiy, duty officer of the 201st Division.

As at 2145 hours Moscow time, he said, the situation on the border "has been stabilized." There are no casualties among the Russian servicemen.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Receives UN Envoy

LD0609104294 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1800 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan has received Perez Ballon, the UN Secretary General's special envoy to Tajikistan. During the talks questions connected with stabilizing the situation in the region were discussed.

The reception was attended by presidental aide Gulomov, Foreign Minister Komilev, and other officials.

Government To Compensate for Cost of Living Rise

LD0209184194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] In connection with the upcoming completion of the transition to free contractual prices for main consumer goods and services, by an edict of the president of Uzbekistan the decision has been made to compensate the population for its growing cost of living. For this purpose, a monthly tax-free compensation payment of 100 soms is being introduced from 1 October.

The compensations will be paid to all employed population, pensioners, and students of secondary special and vocational education establishments.

Bread Prices Increased 5 Sep

LD0509092794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent September 5 TASS—Retail prices for flour and pan bread are raised 50 per cent in Uzbekistan on Monday. The republican government explains this decision by a need for protecting the domestic consumer market, by economic reasons and rational use of flour and bread as well as by rising prices for procurement, transportation and processing of grain.

Despite this price hike, Uzbek bread is almost 50 per cent cheaper than in neighbouring Central Asian republics. It is 100 per cent more expensive even in neighbouring Kazakhstan, the granary of grain crops, than at Uzbek food shops.

A considerable part of Uzbek grain flows to neighbouring states due to transparancy of borders between Central Asian republics. On the other hand, Uzbekistan annually buys over four million tonnes of grain abroad to meet requirements of the 22-million population in bread and bakery products.

The republican budget regularly covers the difference between the cost of grain and products out of it sold to population.

The retail price for petrol was also raised by 50 per cent due to rising prices for oil. There are benefits for war veterans as well as invalids of war and labour: they will monthly receive 50 litres of petrol at a discount price—50 per cent of the new retail price.

Government To Cut Russian TV Broadcasts 5 Sep

LD0209173794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Uzbekistan cuts Russian television broadcasts from September 5.

The move was explained by the fact that Russian TV stopped paying for the use of republic's communication channels back in June 1994.

From September 5 on local programs as well as those offered by TV companies in Turkey, the United States and India will be offered on Uzbek TV. They will not pay for air time.

Armenia

Border Village Shelled Overnight; No Casualties

LD0509221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1232 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, 5 Sep (ARMENPRESS-TASS)—The border village of Movses of the Taushskiy Rayon of Armenia was fired on at midnight last night from various types of firearms from Azerbaijani territory. Luckily, there were no casualties, the ARMENPRESS correspondent was told at the Information Center of the republican Defense Ministry. The Armenian servicemen did not return the fire.

Explosion in Major Market Area

LD0409170394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 4 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 4 TASS—A powerful explosion rocked Sunday a marketplace in the settlement of Bagratashen near republic's borders with Georgia and Azerbaijan, killing at least ten and injuring 26 people. According to preliminary data, two Azerbaijanis were among the dead. All the injured have been dispatched to nearby hospitals in Armenia and Georgia.

No official report of the accident has yet been available. Motives of the terrorist action are unclear too.

Meanwhile a team of investigators headed by Armenian home minister's first deputy Gaik Arutyunyan has left Yerevan for the site of the tragedy.

The region has been widely known in the Caucasus for its frontier trade business which never ceased to bloom irrespective of the political and military situation in the area.

14 Killed, 46 Injured in Bagratshen

LD0509145994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin, Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 5 Sep—Fourteen people died and 46 were injured—this is the tragic result of an explosion which occurred on Sunday at a market near the settlement of Bagratashen in Noyemberyanskiy rayon in the northeast of Armenia. Among those who died were 11 Armenian citizens and three Georgian citizens, including two of Azerbaijani nationality. This is reported in an official report of the press service of the Government of Armenia. According to specialists, a bomb placed in a bag went off at about 1300 when trade at the market on the junction of the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia was lively. Criminal proceedings have been launched and an investigation is underway. Representatives of the Armenian authorities are convinced that the explosion was a diversion.

Georgian Defense, Interior Ministers Visit Yerevan

LD0309195294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1016 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 3 Sep—The heads of Georgia's power ministries paid a brief working visit to Yerevan today. Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, Georgian defense minister, Internal Affairs Minister Shota Kviraia, and Security Service Director Igor Giorgadze paid a return visit following that made to Tbilisi by their Armenian colleagues in August this year.

The guests had a meeting in the Armenian Defense Ministry and Interior Ministry, and a meeting with the heads of the Armenian State Directorate for National Security. At a meeting with the Georgian ministers, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan pointed out the importance of developing contacts between the Defense and Law Enforcement ministries of the two neighboring republics.

As the presidential press service reported today, during the conversation there was discussion of joint actions to fight drug addiction [as received] and terrorism, and to guard transport routes. No details have been announced about the meetings and conversations in Yerevan.

The Georgian delegation also visited Echmiadzin, the center of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

President Receives Visiting Ministers

NC0209183894 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received on 2 September the heads of the Georgian power ministries, who have arrived in Armenia for [words indistinct]. They are Security Minister Igor Giorgadze, Interior Minister Shota Kviraia, and Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze.

In welcoming the guests, the Armenian president stressed the importance of the development of working ties between the power ministries of the two countries.

They then discussed a program for joint operations in the struggle against drug smuggling and terrorism, and for the protection of communication routes.

Armenian State Minister Vazgen Sargisyan, Interior Minister Vano Siradegyan, Defense Minister Serzh Sargisyan, head of the State Directorate for National Security Davit Shakhnazaryan, and the Commander of the

Russian troops in the Transcaucasus General Fedor Reut were present at the meeting.

Official: Azerbaijan Holding 350 Armenian Hostages

LD0209182794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] There are about 350 Armenian hostages in Azerbaijan now, an expert of the Armenian parliament's special commission on Nagorno Karabakh and representative of the Public Fund for Protection of Hostages Larisa Alaverdyan told Interfax.

Alaverdyan said that 110-120 hostages are kept in state establishments and 230-240 are housed by individuals.

Alaverdyan affirmed that Azerbaijan had informed the Red Cross only of 50 Armenian hostages, a figure she disputes.

However, a representative of the Azerbaijani State Commission on Military Prisoners and Hostages Namig Abbasov has recently told Interfax that there are no Armenian hostages in Azerbaijan except two women and a girl which are in Azerbaijani families. Other hostages were freed by the Azerbaijan authorities in the summer.

The Azerbaijani Ministry for National Security said that Armenia was holding 362 Azerbaijani women and 95 children as hostages, Abbasov added. He said that the Red Cross, however, had managed to establish only that Armenia was holding 19 Azerbaijani women and 10 children.

U.S. Congressman Wolf's Karabakh Visit Reported

NC0209142694 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0636 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 09/02/94—"I admire the heroic spirit of Karabakh people in difficult conditions they are facing", said yesterday a Virginia Congressman, Republican Frank Wolf, who yesterday returned from Stepanakert and was planning to leave for Baku today.

Mr. Wolf visited damaged villages in Karabakh, met prisoners and refugees, watched difficult everyday life of Karabakh. He promised to tell his conclusions after the visit to Baku but said that in the conditions of cease-fire, the problem of Karabakh's self-determination should first be resolved by people of Karabakh, and only then by Armenia and Azerbaijan, without interference of the West or anyone else.

"I am sure that Turkey should be encouraged and convinced to lift the blockade. The same applies to the blockade of Azerbaijan," said Congressman.

At the end Mr. Wolf told about his worries concerning the return of Russian troops to the region, and particularly to Armenia. He mentioned Baltic republics as an example. Having agreed that his opinion significantly differs from the positive evaluation of the President Clinton, Mr. Wolf declared: "If Russian troops enter Armenia, they will never get out from there."

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Receives Visiting U.S. Congressman

NC0209195394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The opening of the communications routes with Armenia directly depends on the liberation of the occupied Azerbaijani territory.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] This view was particularly stressed by Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev during his meeting today with the U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf.

Frank Wolf, who for many years has been an expert on human rights in the former USSR and has enormous experience in this area, said that his two-day visit to Nagorno-Karabakh and one-day visit to Yerevan further enlightened him on the six-year war.

The American congressman reiterated his conviction that this war has dealt a grave blow to the opposite side, that is, Armenia. It has shaken the Armenian people economically and morally and has cost them their best sons. Therefore, in his opinion, Azerbaijan should take advantage of the current favorable conditions for the establishment of peace and security. First of all it should lift the economic blockade. If this historic chance is lost it will be difficult to prevent the losses in men and material from continuing for years.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev highly assessed the effort of the U.S. congressman to closely familiarize himself with the causes and solutions of the conflict, and noted that it is not enough to visit Nagorno-Karabakh and Yerevan to obtain a full idea of the conflict; it is also necessary to study the situation in Azerbaijan with the same sincere approach. Then there would have been no need to mention that 20 percent of our territory is under occupation and some one million refugees have taken to the deserts. The other hard fact is that the war went beyond Karabakh's borders a long time ago, and as long as these lands are not liberated there can be no talk of a solution to any other problem. Regarding the blockade, it is difficult to say who is really suffering from it. For some time now a 120-km-long railway belonging to Azerbaijan has been under the control of the Armenian armed formations. Because of this, it is absolutely impossible to keep a railway link with Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

[Aliyev] You know, and the world also knows, that this war was not started by Azerbaijan. It is obvious that no country in the world would give away its own land to another. You spoke about the blockade. I will express my views on this issue: Those who [Armenians] are under blockade are continuing to live in their own homes and work places. They are simply experiencing certain difficulties as a result of the blockade. But what about the situation of those people who have been evicted from their homes, places of residence, cities, and towns, and who have lived and are still living in tents elsewhere? I would very much like you to give attention to these problems.

[Unidentified reporter] The president expressed the conviction that Frank Wolf's objective conclusions might bring about progress in the U.S. Congress' approach to Azerbaijan. For Congress from among the former USSR republics to earmark $50 million aid for Georgia and $75 million for Armenian but to ignore Azerbaijan, which has been under aggression for the last six years and which has been confronted with serious problems, naturally causes regret. If the aim is really the defense of human rights, then Azerbaijan has more right to it and need for it.

State Minister Vafa Gulizade was present at the meeting. [end recording]

Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, and Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov also received the U.S. congressman today.

Aliyev, Wolf on Armenian-Azeri Links

LD0209194394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku September 2 TASS—The unblocking of Armenian-Azeri communications depends on the liberation of 16,000 square meters of the occupied Azeri territories and the return of over one million refugees to their homes, Azeri President Geydar Aliyev told visiting U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf.

In the words of Aliyev, being a sovereign state Azerbaijan demands integrity of its territory and protection of rights of its citizens which are major conditions of peace. At the same time, Azerbaijan is ready to guarantee safety of Karabakh Armenians.

As for the blockade of communications, Azerbaijan is not guilty for it, as the majority of communications are going via occupied territory controlled by the Armenian side. This has resulted, in particular, in the blockade of part of Azeri territory, including Nakhichevan.

Aliyev Calls Albright Talks 'Fruitful'

LD0309220194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1817 GMT 3 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 3 September—Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan, and Madeleine Albright, personal envoy of the President of the United States and permanent U.S. representative to the United Nations, assessed today's talks in Baku as fruitful.

The head of the Azerbaijani state stressed that the meeting passed in a spirit of mutual understanding. There was an exchange of opinions on a very broad range of questions. "We were unanimous that our relations are developing successfully and are convinced of the need to take measures to develop them," Geydar Aliyev said.

According to the president, there was also an exchange of opinions on the most acute problems facing the region, including on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It was noted that the cease-fire which has been observed for over three and a half months now is a great achievement. The head of state thinks that the process should [words missing] a lasting peace.

Assessing the Baku meeting as constructive, the American administration's spokeswoman said that the Transcaucasus "are a very important region for the United States and for the whole world community". According to her, U.S. President Bill Clinton considers it necessary to give an impetus to the positive processes occurring here.

It follows from what Madeleine Albright said that the world community and the CSCE are expending quite considerable efforts to settle the conflict over Nagornyy Karabakh. In reply to a question on bringing peacekeeping forces into the region, Geydar Aliyev expressed the opinion that they should be international.

Madeleine Albright explained that her forthcoming talks with Andrey Kozyrev were in no way connected with recognition by the United States of a special role for Russia in the Caucasus. Having expressed disagreement with such a point of view, she said that the aim of her visit to Moscow was connected mainly with a discussion of bilateral relations. At the same time, she said that if Russian troops were present here, then it should be only under international control.

According to the program of her two-day stay in Azerbaijan, this evening the American diplomat will meet [Deputy Prime Minister] Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov. On the morning of 4 September, before leaving for Moscow, she will visit a hospital in Baku and meet refugees.

Guliyev Opposes Oil Pipeline's Passing Through Armenia

TA0409130294 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Kudret Dogandemir video report from Baku]

[Text] In a statement to TRT in Baku, Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Rasul Guliyev said that the most correct decision would be for the oil pipeline to reach Turkey and the Mediterranean via Iran and Nakhichevan. Guliyev said his country is opposed to the oil pipeline's reaching Turkey via Armenia.

Pointing out that the peace talks with Armenia are continuing but that there are disagreements concerning Shusha and Lachin, Guliyev remarked that a lasting peace cannot be achieved with the Armenians unless they withdraw from Shusha and Lachin. All the negotiations on peace and the peace force are being conducted within the framework of the CSCE, Guliyev explained, adding that Azerbaijan does not want Russia to control the talks by itself.

Guliyev noted that there is no link between the peace talks and the oil agreement. He added that the oil agreement will be signed within 10 days.

Security Ministry Breaks Armenian Terrorist Ring

MK0209113094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Ismail Gasanly from Baku in the "Special Services" column under general headline: "A Common Intelligence Space"]

[Excerpt] In Moscow, talks on a Karabakh settlement continue at the level of the Transcaucasus states' foreign ministers. However, the latest report by Azerbaijan's National Security Ministry about the breaking of a terrorist network of Armenian special services, also operating on Russia's territory, could seriously complicate their progress.

The Azerbaijan National Security Ministry reported that between 1989 and 1994 Armenian terrorists committed 29 terrorist acts and acts of sabotage in Azerbaijan. More than 2,000 people were killed or wounded. It also announced the exposure of a diversified secret network of Armenian special services in Russia whose agents infiltrated even the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service.

Government Forces Removed From Nakhichevan

NC0209134294 Baku TURAN in English 0810 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Baku (August 31) [date as received] TURAN: The Interior of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan reported to its leadership in Baku that the disarmament of Shahmardan Dzhafarov's detachment has come to an end.

The press-service of Interior of Azerbaijan announced that the criminal situation in Sharur region has been normalized.

According to the oppositional sources the government failed to disarm Dzhafarov.

Yesterday a rally held in Sharur which more than 1000 people took part. Having made a speech in front of the people Dzhafarov called the measure taken by the government criminal and said that the responsibility must be carried by the government .

According to the announcement given from Nakhichevan the forces participated in the operation are away from Sharur at present.

Yesterday a rally consisting of 2000 participants held in Ordubad district.

The NFA [National People's Front of Azerbaijan] representatives announce that a group of Turkish Parliament was to arrive in Nakhichevan to clarify the facts concerning with the weapon sale to the Kurdish Worker Party, which had been made in the statement of Interior of Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

New Appointments in Ministry of Internal Affairs

NC0209141894 Baku TURAN in English 0810 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Baku, August 31 (TURAN)—Some changes have been held in the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Ramiz Dzhangirov has been appointed the head of the headquarters, who headed the same post in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Colonel Ilyas Mammadov has been appointed the head of the department of the struggle against economic crimes of the Ministry, who formerly headed the analogous department of the Internal Ministry of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Colonel Askar Alakbarov has been appointed the head of the personnel department, who formerly worked in the Internal Affairs Ministry of Nakhichevan.

TURAN has been informed that a special department is being created in the Internal Affairs Ministry of Azerbaijan against the exclusive hard crimes following the Presidential Decree of "The strengthening of the struggle against crimes." Mostly its composition consist of the people from Armenia and Nakhichevan.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Albright Visit, Geneva Talks

LD0509084194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0620 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Regular weekly interview with Council of State chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani—live]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Batono Eduard, Madeleine Albright, member of the presidential council and the U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, visited Georgia last week. How significant was this visit against the background of the slow process of the return of refugees? Another question. Ms Albright met with the command of the Russian peace-keeping forces. How satisfying and acceptable could she, as a UN representative, find the UN-Russian cooperation in the Abkhazian conflict?

[Shevardnaze] Thank you. Good morning.

The principal aim of Ms Albright's visit was familiarization with the situation on the spot. At her meetings with the press, deputies and the population, she repeatedly emphasized that Russia's peace mission in Abkhazia was not an ordinary and standard one. Ms Albright has a good understanding that it is too early to speak of any success or failure of the peace mission at the present stage. We are also well aware of this. The main thing is that the world community, the Security Council and its members keep showing keen interest in our way of settling the conflict.

I would complete my answer in this way: Let's hope that with God's help everything will proceed as planned. The Russian leaders have to be aware of the commitments they made to our country and the world by taking up the peace mission. As I have already said this is a very bold and important experiment, if this word can be accepted in our conditions. Provided the experiment proves to be a success, it will be of a great historic significance not only for Georgia and Russia.

[Oniani] Another round of the Abkhaz-Georgian talks was held in Geneva. A memorandum was adopted about a voluntary return of refugees and displaced people. Although the memorandum gives a priority to the issue of the return of refugees, it has still stirred up certain discontent.

[Shevardnadze] I can say nothing of the grounds for discontent. I assess the Geneva agreement positively. It gives no grounds for discontent. We have to apprehend this properly. We cannot single out a phrase or a word from the memorandum. Each word should be read within the general context. As for the text, it is fairly acceptable for both parties. It was by no means easy to find proper formulae. Our delegation kept consulting Tbilisi. Eventually, we agreed to the text. To my mind, results of the Sochi meeting scheduled to begin tomorrow [6th] will be more significant. This is where we will have to agree on realistic mechanisms of the return of refugees. This will be the principal issue and the main problem.

[Oniani] Allow me to remind you your own words. How will mankind enter the third millennium? What sort of inheritance will our our children and grandchildren get from our generation? Will they inherit destructive weapons enabling them to blow up everything and everyone, enmity and confrontation, economic structure which collapses by itself? Or will they inherit a world of neighborly relations based on cooperation and devoid of military or any other danger, the world in which all the peoples will have a guarantee of a free life and labor and joy of life in the first instance? I would like to ask you, an initiator of the event, how will the historic occasion that occurred last week affect an answer to this question? I mean the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Germany. In Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's opinion, this happened too early because four years was a term too short. He even said that Gorbachev and Shevardnadze should be answerable for this.

And yet another question. Could we consider this event in a single context with the Abkhazian issue?

[Shevardnadze] I have to remind you of my words that mankind has failed to apprehend what happened in the late 80s. We have prevented the third world war the epicenter of which was in the middle of Europe. Only the naive or those ignorant of affairs may think that this danger did not exist. However, demolishing old walls does not mean erecting a new building.

The present world has proved not to be ready to build a common European, or I would rather say now, a common global house. The end of the cold war has resulted in an overall complacency. Current processes are viewed parochially. I think it cannot keep on long like this and it will not. The mankind will enter the 21st Century guaranteed that there will be no wars, neither between states nor within states, the latter being of major significance to us. I mean conflicts provoked by various causes. There exist real ways and means to avoid any global military, economic and ecological cataclysm. Indeed, Georgia will have its own role in the struggle for the eventual universal peace and prosperity.

It seems to be a paradox that Russian troops leaving one country after decades of deployment there and having accomplished their historic mission of defeating fascism enter another country. When speaking of the withdrawal of troops I mean not only Germany but also other countries they left earlier and Baltic states as well.

[Oniani] I shall remind you of rather harsh words about you. Many say that while Russian troops are leaving Germany, additional troops are entering Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] I am well aware of these statements. I would like to say a few words about Russia's new mission or rather a role. Many may again consider this as a naive statement. I do not regard it as naive. When speaking of a new mission, I particularly mean the space of the former USSR. Russia must be interested in the stability of the whole area, and it seems to be. Whatever the, so to say, parade of declarations of independence, whatever the quality of independence of these countries, it is impossible to completely cut off these countries from one another because of their firm long-time links in economy, culture and science. Lack of stability in one of these countries causes a painful and complicated processes in Russia. Russia must be keen on securing peaceful democratic developments in these countries. This is the environment surrounding Russia. [Passage omitted]

Russia should play its role by securing free development to young countries of new democracy even through deploying armed forces in one of these rather than by reviving imperial thought and practice that has no prospects for future. This is always a temporary measure, especially in our times. This sort of an approach fully complies with Russia's supreme national and state interests at the present stage of its development.

As for Mr. Grachev's statement, I should say quite briefly that current Russian-Georgian relations are at a stage when any disputes over the issue like this can only do harm. Therefore, I refrain from any comments. I shall say only one thing. If a factor of a person, be it Shevardnadze or whoever, in these relations is considered as negative, we will have to take a decision enabling us to remove any obstacle on our way of building new relations.

[Oninai] Several important edicts and decrees were issued last week. These were edicts on establishing the state-commercial bank [name indistinct]; allocating additional rights to the Tbilisi Mayoralty; measures on preventing adverse effects of the energy crisis; measures on promoting further development of consumers' cooperatives and, the most significant, a decree on immediate measures on creating social security of the population and speeding up fundamental reforms of [word indistinct] and financial systems.

The IMF has repeatedly demanded in its recommendations that Georgia introduce market economy prices and this has been stipulated as a unavoidable condition for carrying out economic reforms and helping the country out of the current dreadful economic crisis. A leader of the former Constitutional-Democratic Party, currently the For Life movement, Giorgiy Korghanashvili has been on hunger-strike for some time now opposing the above recommendation and demanding the introduction of a rationing system on essential foodstuffs. Neither will our population accept this move unequivocally. Do you think this case can be used for adverse purposes? We know that certain forces in our parliament are openly preparing for the forthcoming parliament session.

[Shevardnadze] All the edicts result from the anticrisis program drafted by the government together with economists and other scientists. The program was submitted to the parliament but, to our regret, was not read and studied properly. This program is the basis for all current actions taken by the Georgian government.

I believe that a rearrangement of the banking system is the main clue to the overall reform. Everything done so far was very difficult but we took this step. And this will hopefully provide us with grounds to consider the improvement of the whole financial system. The decree on rearranging salaries and introducing market economy prices does not cover everything. It has stipulated the principal trends of the major phase of a very important reform. An edict of the Cabinet of Ministers is due shortly. It will be more detailed showing figures and terms.

I request everyone to understand that the way we have determined as leading from the crisis is the only one. This way is irreversible. Neither hunger-strikes nor protest rallies can help. All this can only complicate the situation. The parliament should promote the implementation of the reforms. A great number of draft laws are to be passed because the reforms cannot be fully implemented without them. We are at such a phase of implementing our reforms that even if one law is delayed, the implementation of the reforms will drastically slow down. This cannot be allowed to happen.

I would like to remind everyone how important the recommendations of the IMF and the World Bank are. We can, indeed, accept them or reject them. There are countries refusing to accept the recommendations. They choose a different way. But those countries have other means, other resources and other opportunities. Taking into consideration Georgia's natural resources and all we have lost in recent years, we can assume that Georgia has no alternative way. We have to consider the IMF and the World Bank as our partners along with other countries, international organizations and institutions. If we implement the recommendations and go through the stage stipulated by the mentioned decree, we will be able to hope to get large material and financial assistance from the IMF. This will create a stabilization fund which will permit us to introduce our firm national currency in the very near future. If we stick to the chosen way, we will soon have noticeable results in overcoming the economic and financial crises and the introduction of the national currency is to be its first sign. This will be a very hard stage, painful for every citizen.

I expect a question: what practical effect will this produce? Is it not possible that the national currency will depreciate like the coupon has? Speaking of the stabilization fund and the assistance to be received from the IMF, I mean that this fund will create an opportunity to introduce hard currency. This will become possible only in case the people work and fundamental changes are introduced in the economy.

The second point is that this painful stage should lead us to the creation of a real budget. Our country has virtually no budget today. We take non-existing credits from the National Bank and try to set figures from nothing. This is a mere self-deception. We cheat ourselves and cheat the people. When considering this issue at the meeting in the Cabinet of Ministers, we arrived at a conclusion that provided the measures stipulated by the decree were implemented, we would get a real budget. This will be a significant victory. This will be a great step towards the improvement of the economy and the financial situation.

And yet another major point. While analysing the measures to be carried out, we realized that the inflation must be stopped. It must not only stop but also decrease to the level which is more or less acceptable for every citizen. I should tell you that high rate of inflation has an adverse effect upon everybody but it especially hits interests of pensioners, low-income workers and unemployed.

These are the targets that we set and must implement.

As for those staging a hunger-strike demanding that we introduce a rationing system on essential foodstuffs which would work a miracle and help the whole population, I can tell them and all radio listeners that I will be the first to vote for the rationing card system. However, when a rationing system is introduced we should have something to base it on. [passage indistinct]

Negotiations Centered on Abkhaz Refugee Return

LD0209182194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] I will not take part in negotiations with Abkhazia until the refugees are permitted to return to Abkhazia, said Jaba Ioseliani, head of a Georgian delegation at the Abkhaz-Georgian talks and deputy head of Shevardnadze's emergency coordinating commission. Having refused to head the Georgian delegation at the latest talks in Geneva, he arrived in Zugdidi to fulfill his promise given to the refugees to lead their peaceful march to Gali Rayon. Now, everything depends on the refugees themselves, Jaba Ioseliani said. I will act in accordance with their decision, he emphasized.

Refugees Appeal To Yeltsin, UN, CSCE

LD0209200694 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Zugdidi [no dateline as received]— On 1 September thousands of refugees and displaced people from Abkhazia staged a rally in Zugdidi. The rally adopted a statement addressed to the Russian president, the UN secretary general, and the world community. The statement says: We have arrived at a crucial moment in the settlement of the armed conflict, by means of which Abkhaz separatists are trying to break up the territory of a sovereign state, a member of the United Nations.

The Russian Federation, the UN, and the CSCE have repeatedly confirmed their recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity, inviolability of its borders, and the rights of ethnic Georgians exiled from Abkhazia. This created grounds for Russian Armed Forces and UN observers to begin a peacekeeping mission in the region.

The statement further says: Taking into consideration the necessity to find compromises, the Republic of Georgia has made a number of concessions aimed at speeding up the process of the return of the refugees and displaced people. However, all efforts aimed at getting out of the deadlock proved to be futile. Demanding that the refugees and displaced people sign their loyalty to laws of the self-proclaimed so-called Republic of Abkhazia, the Gudauta authorities challenge the whole world community. Having failed the work of the quadripartite commission, the Gudauta authorities have left us with no alternative but to return to our domicile armed only with a hope that the world community will not permit blood to be shed and will put an end to our suffering.

Georgia, Abkhazia Sign Geneva Statement on Refugees

LD0209172294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 2 Sep—In Geneva today, Georgia and Abkhazia confirmed they were ready to fulfill their obligations concerning the return of voluntary refugees to Abkhazia. The statement, signed by the delegations after three days of tense negotiations—taking place under the aegis of the UN with Russian assistance and the participation of the CSCE—stresses their adherence to the agreement concluded previously on setting up a quadripartite commission on refugees, separating the forces, and a cease-fire. They agreed to take part in the next session of the Commission for Refugees in Sochi, planned for 6 September, and to put as much effort as possible into completing the preparations of the necessary documentation, "thus starting the actual return (of refugees and displaced persons) in the near future." It was decided to set up a working group to deal with finding and reburying the bodies of those killed. Those returning to Abkhazia will be informed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees that Abkhazia requires them to observe the laws operating in Abkhazia and not to contravene human rights, freedoms, and dignity. "The two parties," the document states, "have taken into consideration the readiness of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to assist the people returning in a spontaneous fashion—as well as those returning in an organized manner—as soon as the regulated return process is really underway."

The Georgian delegation at the talks was headed by Sandro Kavsadze, chairman of the Georgian Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations and the Abkhazian delegation was headed by Sokrat Jinjolia, chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers. Edouard Brunner, the UN secretary general's special representative, and the Russian diplomats Gennadiy Fedosov and Feliks Kovalev acted as mediators in this round of talks.

The next round of talks on the political aspects of the settlement is planned for October.

Russian Official on Georgian, Abkhaz Refugees

LD0209193494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1840 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Geneva September 2 TASS—"The negotiations were not easy, but it is most important that the sides agreed to intensify the return of refugees," Russian ambassador at large Gennadiy Fedosov told ITAR-TASS today upon the completion of a regular round of Georgian-Abkhazian negotiations.

Together with Russian diplomat Feliks Kovalev and special representative of the United Nations secretary-general

Edouard Brunner, Fedosov was a mediator at the three-day negotiations round organized under the aegis of the United Nations Organization with the assistance of the Russian Federation and with participation of CSCE.

"The main result is the sides' readiness to take maximum efforts to start voluntary repatriation. We seem to have equalled in rights all refugees, including those who have returned home spontaneously. The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has voiced its readiness to help them as soon as the organized refugee return starts. This is important, because winter will come soon and these people may starve. Let's hope that potential donor-states will not keep aside. The voluntary repatriation program will cost at least eight million dollars, and there are only three millions," said Fedosov.

Asked how the recent round will help full-scale political settlement in Abkhazia, the diplomat said "progress towards political settlement cannot start without settlement of the refugee problem. That is why, refugees are not only humanitarian but also political problem. It is not accidentally that the negotiations round focused on this item".

At first, the agenda including only political aspects, such as the future status of Abkhazia. On the first day of the meeting the Georgian and Abkhazian delegations received proposals of the mediators developed on specialists on the U.N. constitutional law with participation of CSCE and Russia. "Everyone understand that the Georgian structure is an internal affair. However, bearing in mind the United Nations and Russia are mediators, we have made our contribution to be based on international and Russian experience. Let us hope this issue will be the topic of the next round of negotiations scheduled for October," said Fedosov.

Ukraine Views 'Great Potential' in Relations

AU0409161794 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Aug 94 p 1, 2

[Speech by Anatoliy Kasyanenko, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine in the Republic of Georgia, to mark the third anniversary of Ukraine's independence; place and date not given: "Steps Toward the Establishment of Statehood"]

[Excerpts] On 24 August, it will be three years to the day that Ukraine appeared on the political arena as an independent state.

Regarding what I have said, I would like to emphasize one other important aspect. Ukraine's emergence from the crisis depends to a significant degree on our relations with Russia, close cooperation with the republics of the former USSR, and active efforts in the matter of strengthening and developing CIS institutions. Today, it is precisely on this territory that Ukraine's vitally important national interests are concentrated.

This situation wholly applies to bilateral Ukrainian-Georgian relations that are based on a serious legal and contractual basis. The task now is to move from the "signing" of bilateral agreements to controlling their implementation.

A promising direction for our cooperation is the commercial and economic sphere. Coal, ferrous and nonferrous metal goods, chemical and petrochemical products, the output of the timber and woodworking industry, consumer goods and also cereal, meat, and milk products, and so forth can form the basis for Ukrainian exports to Georgia.

In its turn, Georgia can interest Ukraine in supplies of industrial and engineering goods, and fruits and vegetables.

Thanks to sea links between the two states, Ukraine can have an outlet to the countries of the Transcaucasus, Central Asia, and the Far East via Georgian ports and Georgia can have an outlet to Europe.

There exists significant potential for Ukrainian-Georgian cooperation in the ecological sphere, in particular in the coordination of efforts to protect and improve the ecological state of the Black Sea and preserve and utilize and develop its potential regarding biological products, and also in the sphere of health protection, science, culture, education, and so forth.

There is great potential for cooperation between our two countries within the framework of the Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

In three years, our country has acquired a certain standing in Europe and the world. As of today, Ukraine has been recognized by 149 states and has established diplomatic relations with 130.

A powerful legal and contractual basis has been created. By the start of this year, 644 treaties and agreements had been signed with states encompassing various spheres of activity and it is planned to sign 184 documents this year.

Today, there are 42 representations functioning in 33 countries, including 32 embassies, five consulates general, one ambassadorial department, and four permanent representations attached to international organizations. Ukraine has appointed 27 ambassadors, 11 minister-counselors, and four consular-generals. There are 49 foreign embassies functioning in Kiev.

Ukraine has made itself known in international organizations, being a member of 32 of these. In addition to this, it is a member or participates in the work of almost 100 standing or temporary bodies created within the framework of these organizations or on the basis of international treaties to which Ukraine is a signatory.

Georgian, Armenian Security Services To Cooperate

LD0309193394 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] On 2 September the State Security Service of the Republic of Georgia and the Armenian National Security Service signed a cooperation agreement. This agreement envisages joint action against international terrorism, drugs trade, and banditry and is aimed at promoting friendship and good-neighborly relations between the two nations.

In the near future we will provide you with more information about this event.

Russian Peacekeepers Repair Kodor Bridges, Roads

LD0509151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow September 5 TASS—The Russian peacekeeping detachment deployed in the Kodor Range and based in the village of Lat has been ordered to move towards a mountain pass in the Azhar highland settlement area.

Abkhazian Deputy Foreign Minister Zurab Smyr told ITAR-TASS by telephone today that the Russian "blue helmets" are repairing mountain roads and blown up bridges. The withdrawal of Georgian armoured vehicles will begin after the debris caused by landslides is cleared and bridges are repaired.

According to Smyr, the whole operation will be controlled by the joint headquarters of the Russian peacekeepers and U.N. military observers in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone. The last remaining Georgian army detachments will leave the highland together with the armoured vehicles.

"The peacekeeping role played by the Russian Army deserves the highest degree of praise, because they are helping untangle the last knot of the armed confrontation, and paving the way for settling the acute problem of the return of refugees," Zurab Smyr said.

Deputy Premier Reports on Gas Deal With Iran

LD0309190494 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpt] A Georgian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili has returned from Iran. The purpose of the delegation's visit was to solve our old problem of gas supply.

[Begin recording] [Kervalishvili] Natural gas imports from Iran were the first in a series of issues that we were to discuss during our visit to Iran. Although we knew that it was unlikely that we would receive Iranian gas—that was the information we had at the time—we nevertheless decided to go to Iran. We were determined to get Iranian gas at any cost. The meetings there showed that this was an enormous problem. The Iranians were not trying to dramatize the situation, but they merely presented the facts, explaining why they could not supply us with gas.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you mean they themselves are short of gas?

[Kervalishvili] That is right. They produce 90 billion cubic meters and consume 100 billion cubic meters (?per year). This means they have to import 10 billion to cover the deficit. Can you imagine a country that is short of gas by 10 billion cubic meters giving you gas? Despite all this, we still got the result. We applied a lot of effort and showed high skill during the talks in persuading them to give us gas.

However, the most important factor was the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze. I will only tell you what President Rafsanjani said at the end of our meeting. He said: You can see that we ourselves are experiencing gas shortages. Despite our own problems with gas, we will give gas to Mr. Shevardnadze anyway. He then added: I would like to do even more for Mr. Shevardnadze, but please tell him that is all we can do for the moment.

[Correspondent] So, how much gas will we get, Mr. Kervalishvili?

[Kervalishvili] We will get 630 million cubic meters, which is to be used over four months. This is quite enough to cover Georgia's current deficit. Iran will have the opportunity to gain access to the Eurasian corridor, which will link it with central and eastern Europe, Russia, and other countries. [passage omitted: Iran will be able to restore its historical trade routes]

[Correspondent] Is there anything we produce that might interest them?

[Kervalishvili] That is right. There is a lot of interest in mechanical engineering. There are some expensive and prestigious products in which the Iranians are very interested. Our experts will sit with their Iranian colleagues for about three months and examine all issues in detail. I have no doubt that as far as mechanical engineering is concerned, they will take from us a number of technological processes.

Friendship and cooperation can only be reinforced with business, and only business will put them on a firm footing. We should be good partners. Even more, we should be the first in every initiative and should not allow things to fail. [end recording]

Estonia

Yeltsin Signs Estonian-Language Accords

WS0609101694 Tallinn BNS in English 1643 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Tallinn, Sept 05, BNS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Friday signed the Estonian-language copies of the agreements signed by the presidents of Estonia and Russia on July 26 in Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry told the Estonian Embassy.

Copies in the Estonian language of the agreements on Russian troop withdrawal and on social guarantees for the retired Russian military living in Estonia were signed by Estonian President Lennart Meri on Aug. 20. The copies were delivered to Moscow two days later, Ambassador Juri Kahn said.

Although the text of the agreements says they have been concluded and signed in both Estonian and Russian, Presidents Meri and Yeltsin on July 26 signed only the Russian-language copies. Kahn told BNS today Russia had accepted the Estonian texts as presented by Tallinn. "The texts of the agreements were submitted to a thorough analysis by the Russian side," Kahn added. The signed copies are expected in Tallinn Wednesday.

The Estonian government has said it will issue its official position on the agreements after experts at the Justice Ministry have finished examining the texts. The chancellor of the Justice Ministry, Mihkel Oviir, has said it takes the ministry three weeks to finish the work.

Representatives of 15 political parties and organizations in Estonia have called on the parliament to denounce the July 26 agreements as contradicting Estonia's national interests.

Illegally Demobilized Russian Military Must Leave

WS0609070294 Tallinn ETA in English 2236 GMT 2 Sep 94

["News Release"]

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Ministry on Friday issued a statement saying that although the Russian troops have left under the inter-state agreement concluded between Estonia and Russia, Russia had illegally demobilized its military personnel which must also leave.

"All units of the military forces of the Russian Federation which were stationed on the territory of the Republic of Estonia have been withdrawn. Most of the 570 Russian military bases, installations and properties were officially handed over to Estonian authorities by August 31. However, about 100 of the Russian military sites were simply abandoned and are in the process of being taken over unilaterally by the Estonian authorities," the Foreign Ministry said.

"While noting the importance of the withdrawal of troops in helping to stabilize the situation in Estonia and to normalize Estonian-Russian relations, the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Estonia finds it necessary to draw attention to the fact that the Russian side has left in Estonia a number of illegally demobilized military personnel who must be repatriated, the statement read.

"The dismantling and removal of the two nuclear reactors in Paldiski, based upon a separate agreement, is continuing and must be completed by September 30, 1995. The dismantling is being carried out by Russian specialists who have been accorded civilian status. The entire Pakri peninsula, with the exception of the nuclear reactor facilities in Paldiski, is now under Estonian control."

"The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Estonia would also like to point out the extensive damage to the environment caused by the Russian military. The final assessment of such damage is not yet complete since the access of Estonian authorities to many military sites and installations has, up to now, been limited," the ministry said.

Republic Admits To Indirectly Selling Soviet Rubles

WS0609074694 Tallinn BNS in English 1135 GMT 5 Sep 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] Estonia conceded that it violated an agreement with Russia as it indirectly sold Soviet rubles, which were withdrawn from circulation during the 1992 monetary reform, to anonymous persons.

The buyers of the rubles could have been the Chechen rulers who declared their homeland's separation from Russia, according to Estonian press publications.

The Estonian Monetary Reform Committee said Sep. 2 in a statement that the sum of the withdrawn Soviet rubles exceeded 2.26 bln [billion]. From the total, 1.46 bln rubles were sold through intermediaries for USD 1.89 mln. The remainder was sold as waste- paper for 336,700 Estonian kroons. The Monetary Reform Committee claims in its statement that it failed to agree with Russia on the procedure of handover of the withdrawn rubles regardless of the existing interstate agreement.

Under the Estonian-Russian agreement, the rubles gathered during the monetary reform should have been handed over to the Central Bank of Russia in a month from the start of the reform's implementation.

The committee failed to name the buyers of the money, nor the brokers in the deal. The factors were said to be Estonian private persons and privately-owned businesses. The committee, however, recognizes that the brokers earned a "mind-boggling sum" for their services. The Monetary Reform Committee includes Prime Minister Mart Laar, Bank of Estonia President Siim Kallas and independent expert Ardo Hansson.

Economics Minister: Economy on Upswing in 1994

WS0609095194 Tallinn ETA in English
1822 GMT 5 Sep 94

["News Release"]

[Text]. If the end of the last year showed Estonian economy was recovering, the current year has proved the upswing, Economics Minister Toivo Jurgenson told a news conference on Monday.

"In the beginning of 1994, we forecast a four to six per cent increase in the gross national product, but the increase in the first quarter was 1.9 per cent," Jurgenson said adding that productivity, a vital indicator of economic development, had in the first quarter of the year gone up by 8.4 per cent as compared to the same period a year before. Jurgenson said Japan showed the same indicator of productivity in early 1960's.

Foreign investments account for over 50 per cent of total investments into Estonian economy, Jurgenson said. In 1993, Estonian capital was the biggest investor. Jurgenson also pointed out increasing interest in Estonia by Russian investors.

Economic upswing shows also in consumer purchasing power that in the first quarter of the year went up by 3.4 per cent as compared to the same period in 1993, Jurgenson said. In Latvia, the respective figure was 0.4 while Lithuania posted decrease in purchasing power.

Jurgenson pointed out as troubling the decrease of services in Estonian balance of payments which can be explained by the decrease in grain transit to Russia through Estonia that in previous years had amounted to five million tons a year, Jurgenson said.

The lack of credit resources is a major problem in Estonia, Jurgenson said and added intensive work to attract foreign investors was needed. A special foreign investments agency had been set up by the ministry to serve that purpose.

An important indicator showing stability of the economy is the fall in average interest rates to 23 per cent in 1994 from 37 per cent in 1993.

Lithuania

Government Pushes for Sale of Land to Foreigners

WS0609074794 Tallinn BNS in English
1135 GMT 5 Sep 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] The Lithuanian Government approved a draft amendment to section 47 of the Constitution that would allow foreign citizens and foreign countries to own land in Lithuania. The draft will be submitted to the parliament for consideration in the near future.

The existing Lithuanian legislation only allows foreigners to rent land for up to 99 years. The ban on the sale of land to foreign citizens is considered one the principles barriers to foreign investments.

The issue was discussed in parliament earlier, but without any result. For a new debate, the amendment has to be presented on behalf of one-fourth of the 141-seat Lithuanian parliament. Supposedly, this will not be a problem because the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP], which is headed by Slezevicius, has an absolute majority of 72 seats.

The Lithuanian Constitution was approved in a referendum in late 1992. The Constitution can be amended by way of two votings in parliament with a three-month interval between them. An amendment has to be supported by at least two-thirds, or 94 lawmakers, in both votings.

But there are a number of politicians in the parliament's extreme left wing, who say they will not allow "to sell Lithuania to foreigners," while extreme rightists usually seek to block any government proposals. Analysts say the amendment will be approved only if Slezevicius will "brainwash" and convince certain members of the LDLP faction to vote for, if the amendment will be strongly backed by President Algirdas Brazauskas and also if it will be supported not only by centrist forces, but by the right wing, as well. In case the parliament rejects the proposed amendment, a new discussion can be initiated only a year later.

Among the former Soviet republics only Estonia allows sales of land to foreigners.

Russia Said Ready To Accept Terms for Military Transit

WS0609101894 Tallinn BNS in English
1643 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Vilnius, Sep 05, BNS—Russian military transit to the Kaliningrad enclave and the ratification by the Russian parliament of the interstate Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) treatment in trade dominated the talks of Ceslovas Jursenas, the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, and Vladimir Shumeyko, the leader of the Upper House of the Russian Federal Assembly, on Monday.

Shumeyko pointed out at the meeting that his visit to Lithuania is a good opportunity for the sides to finish coordinating their positions on military transit and the bilateral MFN trade status, Arunas Godunavicius, adviser to the Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] chairman, told BNS.

According to the head of the Russian Federal Council, Russia is ready to accept Lithuania's internal conditions for the transportation of military and hazardous cargoes over its territory as soon as they are approved by the Lithuanian Government and parliament. Shumeyko said that Russia hopes to be familiarized with the transit terms soon and would accept them as a basis for an interstate treaty to be signed in the future.

Asked by his Lithuanian counterpart whether Russia could grant privileged trade treatment to Lithuania in conformity with a bilateral treaty signed a year ago, Shumeiko said that Russia could do this only after it gets acquainted with Lithuania's approved requirements for Russian transit of military and hazardous cargoes.

The talk also covered the ratification of a few other interstate agreements by the Russian Federal Assembly, relations between the two countries' parliaments, international policies, as well as the present situation in the North Caucasian Chechen republic.

The chairman of the Upper House of the Russian parliament also said he would look that Kaliningrad authorities adopt a local law on the cultural status of the Lithuanian ethnic minority in that region. Shumeyko himself was delegated to the Russian parliament by the residents of the Kaliningrad enclave.

The chairmen of the Lithuanian and Russian parliaments also discussed a possibility of holding a trilateral summit meeting of Lithuanian, Polish and Russian MP's.

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